www.thering-online.com

BEST FIGHTER POLL: IT'S PAC-MAN vs. PRETTY BOY!

ANOTHER FINE KAPPA PUBLICATION

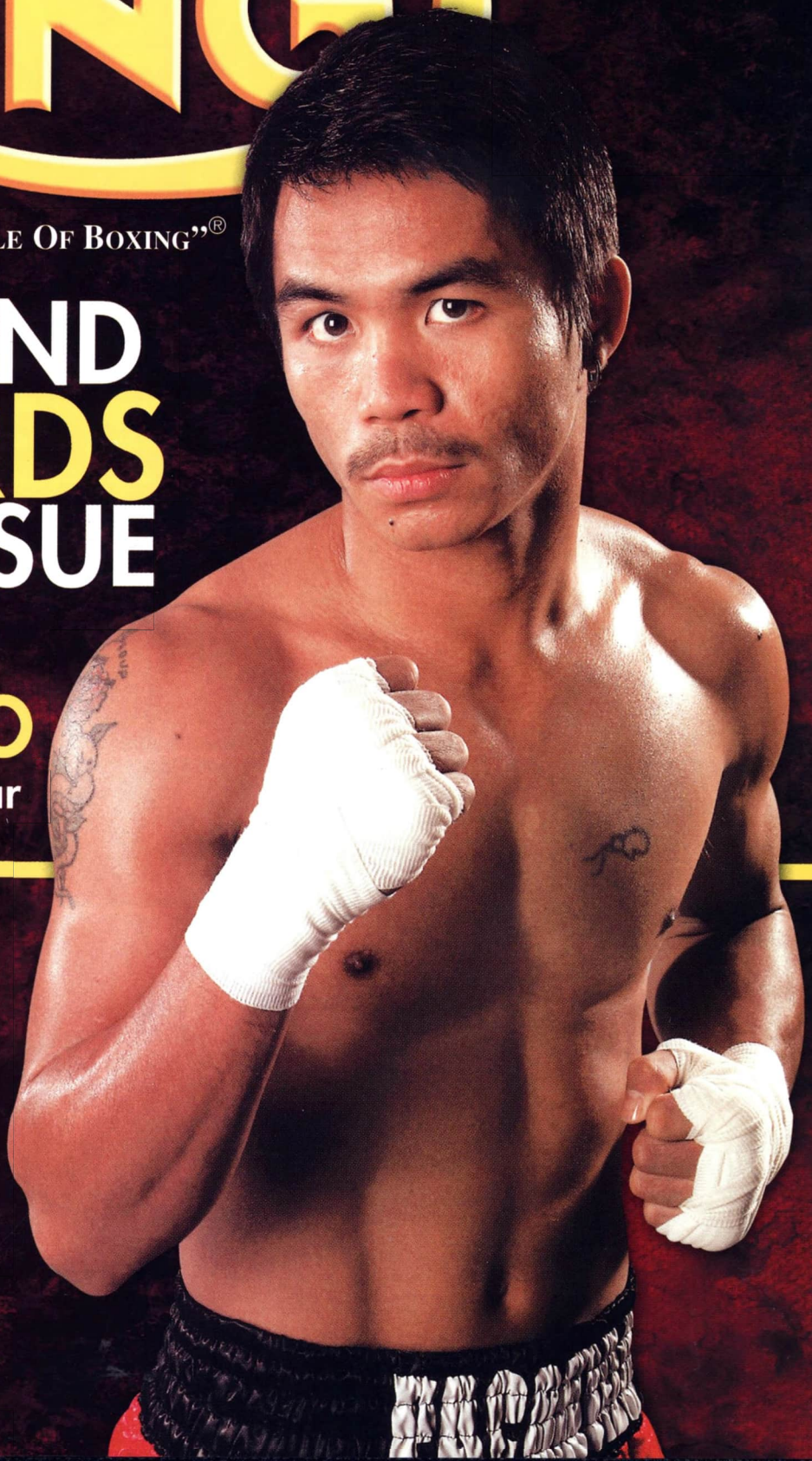
The RING EXTRA

"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"®

YEAR-END AWARDS ISSUE

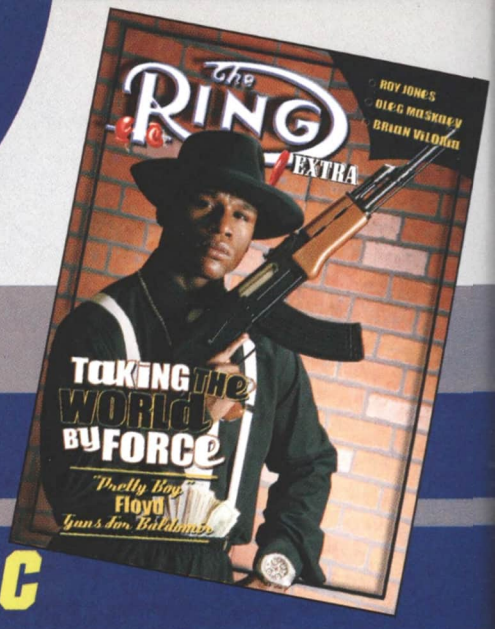
MANNY PACQUIAO
Fighter Of The Year

Plus
Fight • Round •
Knockout • Upset
Comeback • Event



APRIL 2007
$5.95 U.S. $7.00 CANADA £3.95 U.K.
04
7 25274 00396 9
Display Until April 2

The RING



A RING SUBSCRIPTION

A FREE RING ALMANAC

& 35 BUCKS IN YOUR POCKET!

$35! That's what you'll save over the regular newsstand price when you subscribe to 12 issues of The Ring. Why not save nearly 50 percent and enjoy the convenience of having each issue delivered straight to your door? If you can think of one reason why not, then factor this into your decision:

Subscribe for 12 issues and we'll send you—absolutely free—a copy of the The Ring Boxing Almanac And Book Of Facts. That's a $5.95 value ... free!

So here it is: 6 issues of The Ring, 6 issues of The Ring Extra—and the 2007 Ring Almanac. More than $41 in savings (including the Almanac) and no more disappointments over newsstand sellouts!

Good deal? GREAT DEAL!

Send To: **London Publishing Co.**, P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121

☐ YES, I would like to take advantage of your money-saving offer. I have indicated below which subscription plan I am ordering and have enclosed my payment or provided my credit card information.

TWO WAYS TO SAVE!

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

1 Save More Than $11 Over Newsstand Price! LRNG

☐ THE RING/THE RING EXTRA (6 issues) for $30.00 ANPR07

2 Monster Deal—More Than $40 Off Newsstand! LRNG

☐ THE RING/THE RING EXTRA (12 issues) for $48.00. Plus, THE RING 2007 Almanac, for free! AALM07

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____APT.____

CITY_____STATE____ZIP_____

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

FOR CANADA AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $36.00 FOR 6 ISSUES ($48.00 AIRMAIL); $60.00 FOR 12 ISSUES ($84.00 AIRMAIL). INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2008. THE RING ALMANAC AVAILABLE ONLY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

7566

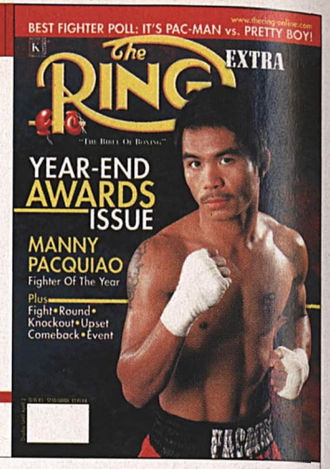
The First Ever Knockout Series available Pay-Per-View.

USA Tuesday Night Fights KNOCKOUTS! © 2006 CSI Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. USA Tuesday Night Fights KNOCKOUTS! and CSI Sports logos are CSI Entertainment, Inc. trademarks worldwide. Unauthorized usage of these names or logos are strictly prohibited.

Contents

The RING EXTRA

APRIL 2007



Cover Photo by **Chris Farina/Top Rank**

Cover Design by **David Romanosky**

Special Year-End Section

35 **Introduction**
36 **Fighter Of The Year**
40 **Fight Of The Year**
42 **Round Of The Year**
44 **Knockout Of The Year**
46 **Upset Of The Year**
48 **Comeback Of The Year**
50 **Event Of The Year**
52 **Past Winners**
54 **The Highly Unofficial Official Awards**
56 **The Best Fighter Poll**

Features

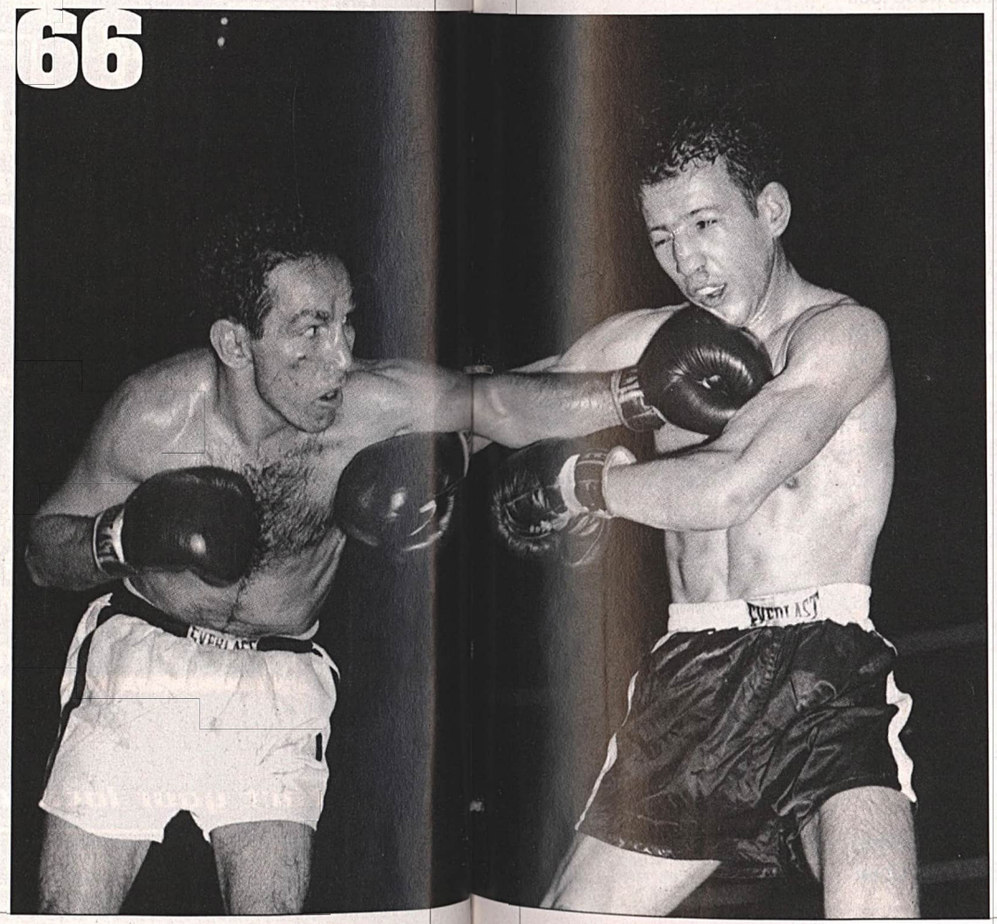
26 **The Ring Forms Ratings Advisory Panel**
Another Step Forward
By Nigel Collins

28 **Can Taylor Become a Superstar?**
Knockout Percentage Is Jermain To The Debate
By David Mayo

60 **Why We Love Duran**
As He Enters The Hall, Bad Memories Are Left Behind
By William Dettloff

66 **Willie Pep: 1922-2006**
"When It Came To Boxing, Willie Stood Alone"
By Don Stradley

74 **The Perils Of Fighting Overseas**
Are We Dealing With Myth Or Reality?
By Don Stradley



Ringside Reports

82 **Fighter Of The Month & Ringside Reports**

Ratings

13 **Ratings Analysis**
14 **The Ring's International Ratings & Records**

Departments

6 **Ringside** *by Nigel Collins*
8 **Round One**
16 **Ryan Out Loud** *by Jeff Ryan*
20 **Digging Deep** *by Ivan Goldman*
80 **Worldwide Fight Results**
92 **Flashback: June 1966**
94 **The Fight Doctor** *by Margaret Goodman, M.D.*
96 **Come Out Writing**
98 **Looking Ahead** *by Eric Raskin*

[Ringside]

Volume 86, No. 4 April 2007

The RING

The election of WBC President Jose Sulaiman to the International Boxing Hall of Fame was a low blow of Golota-like proportions. Like so many others, I was totally dismayed when I heard the news, and I'm still trying to figure out exactly how this could have happened.

There was a similar hubbub when promoters Don King and Bob Arum were enshrined, but it was nowhere near as vociferous as the outrage Sulaiman's selection has prompted. King and Arum, regardless of any sins they may have committed, are promoters, a species that depends on a certain amount of subterfuge and treachery to survive. And besides, it's easy to point to the many great fights the pair has given us as ample reason for their induction. With Sulaiman, it's far more difficult to find even the remotest justification.

I will say this, however: If the WBC restricted its activities to helping down-and-out fighters, Sulaiman might have received my vote. His organization does provide financial and medical assistance to needy pugs on a fairly regular basis, and I'm pretty sure none of the recipients care where the money comes from. But the WBC's charity reminds me of a mobster buying a new boiler for the parish orphanage, just a way to deflect attention from the real business at hand, which, in the WBC's case, is filling its coffers with sanctioning fees and other nefarious activities.

Those seeking undeniable evidence of the WBC's fraudulent practices need look no further than the Graciano Rocchigiani vs. the WBC case, in which a U.S. District Court jury ruled that the Mexico-based organization had cheated Rocchigiani out of his claim to the WBC light heavyweight title and awarded the fighter $30-million in damages.

So far nobody has sued the IBHOF for putting Sulaiman in the Hall. But its fate has already been adjudicated in the court of public opinion, and the jury wasted no time handing down a guilty verdict. Nobody will go to jail or pay a fine, but there's plenty of blame to go around, starting with the nominating committee that placed Sulaiman on the ballot. Goodness knows what they were thinking, but common sense was obviously a no-show. Then there are the idiots who actually voted for him. When I spotted Sulaiman's name on the ballot, I simply shuddered and moved on, never dreaming that enough of my fellow voters would be asinine enough to actually put a check mark next to his name. Who are these people?

While the nominating committee and the panel members who voted for Sulaiman should be ashamed, Executive Director Ed Brophy must also shoulder a heavy portion of the responsibility. The IBHOF has been Brophy's baby from the start, and although other folks are involved in the decision making, Ed is the boss, and as such could have stepped in and done something to stop this stupid and avoidable blunder before it took on a life of its own.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I should mention that the IBHOF is one of this publication's paid advertisers. Moreover, there has always been a friendly spirit of cooperation and support between the two entities, which I hope will continue. Overall, the good the IBHOF has done for the Sweet Science more than compensates for this ghastly gaffe. We all make mistakes from time to time. Unfortunately, this one will be remembered for as long as Sulaiman's plaque hangs on the wall in Canastota.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
Founder
(1888-1972)

STUART M. SAKS
Publisher

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Nigel Collins

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Santoliquito

SENIOR ART DIRECTOR
Jim Malloy

ART DIRECTORS
David Romanosky
Olivia Wierzbicki
Kevin Boone

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Bethany Lawler

PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR
Cliff Campo

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Lisa Rocchi
Harry Burkett

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Eric Raskin

SENIOR WRITER
William Dettloff

PRESIDENT
Despina McNulty

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler

RETAIL SERVICES DIRECTOR
Briana Coppola

NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Dave Hagman

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vincent Bellissima
(215) 643-6385
vbellissima@kappapublishing.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8129
(815) 734-1212
CustSrvc@Kappapublishing.com

The Ring (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 86, No. 4 (Extra, April 2007), is published monthly by London Publishing Co., 6198 Butler Pike, Suite 200, Blue Bell, PA 19422. Periodicals postage paid at Blue Bell, PA 19422, and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: The Ring, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8129. Single copy price $5.95 ($7.00 in Canada, £3.95 in U.K.). Subscription price $83.40 in the U.S., $99.00 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2007 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy or content of any advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB770E, England.
Printed in U.S.A.

FIRSTCOMP **A Championship Weekend in Boxing's Hometown** I ♥ NY

ANNUAL INDUCTION WEEKEND JUNE 7-10, 2007

International Boxing Hall of Fame - Canastota, New York

BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS

Reminiscing . . . "Sugar" Shane Mosley shares fight stories with banquet crowd.

FIST CASTING

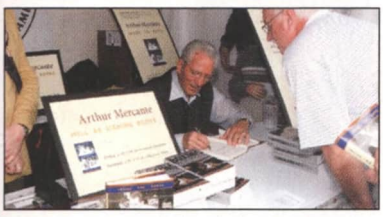
Everlasting . . . Fist cast by Diego Corrales.

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

Marvelous . . . Marvin Hagler waves to fans.

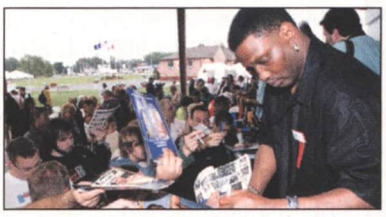
Hooray . . . George Foreman enjoys fans along parade route.

BOOK SIGNINGS



Hall of Fame referee Arthur Mercante signs his autobiography for the fans.

MUSEUM GROUNDS



Autographs . . . "Sweet Pea" Pernell Whitaker spends time signing autographs on the Museum grounds.

5K RACE, FUN RUN

Finish Line . . . "Irish" Micky Ward in stride.

Go . . . Ken Norton officially starts race of celebrity boxers and runners.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

A Moment in Time . . . "Chiquita" Gonzalez and Michael Carbajal proudly show their Hall of Fame rings.

BOXING CARD SHOW

A Collector's Dream . . . Boxing memorabilia for fans. The world's only all-boxing show draws collectors from throughout the world.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Chip . . . Gerry Cooney (l) chips onto 18th green while Sir Henry Cooper (r) is enroute to next tee.

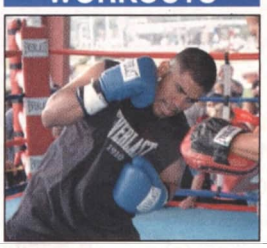
COCKTAIL PARTY

Stars . . . Boxers and fans enjoy VIP cocktail party reception.

MUSEUM

Bob Arum and Angelo Dundee point to their plaques on the Hall of Fame Wall.

WORKOUTS



Juan Diaz works the bag mitts during daily public workouts.

RINGSIDE TALKS

Having Fun. . . Micky Ward, Lou Duva, and Bert Sugar telling stories.

Yes! Please send me a brochure of the Schedule of Events and ticket information

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

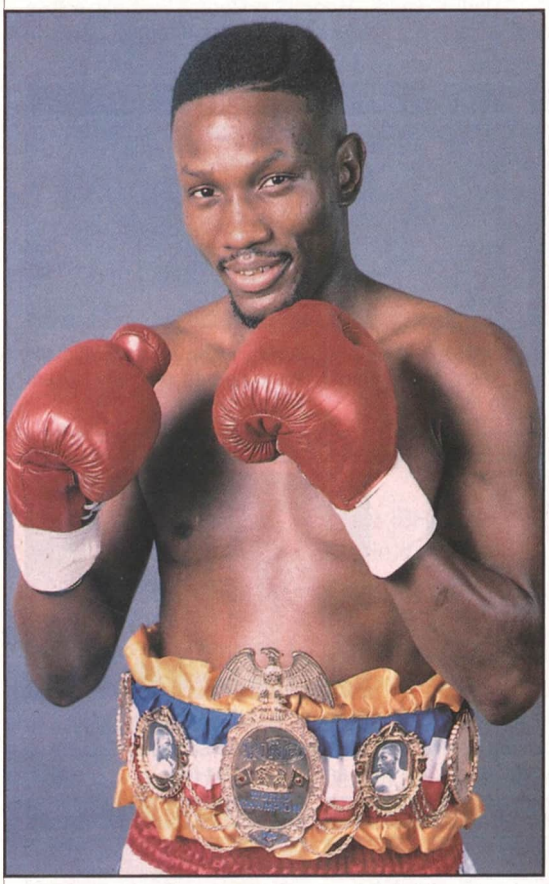
E-mail _____

The Showplace of Boxing
CANASTOTA, NY
BOXING HALL OF FAME

Int'l Boxing Hall of Fame
PO Box 425 • Canastota, NY 13032
Call: 315-697-7095
or Fax: 315-697-5356
www.ibhof.com
For Lodging Information call:
Madison County Tourism 1-800-684-7320

Pound-For-Pounding Down The Doors Of The Hall

Arguably the best pound-for-pound fighter of the '70s, the best pound-for-pound fighter of the '90s, and a pound-for-pound entrant who was boxing's best ever at the sport's smallest poundage will headline 2007's Induction Weekend (June 7-10) at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York. Roberto Duran, Pernell Whitaker, and Ricardo Lopez were all voted into the Hall in their first year of eligibility, and all are expected to attend the induction ceremony.



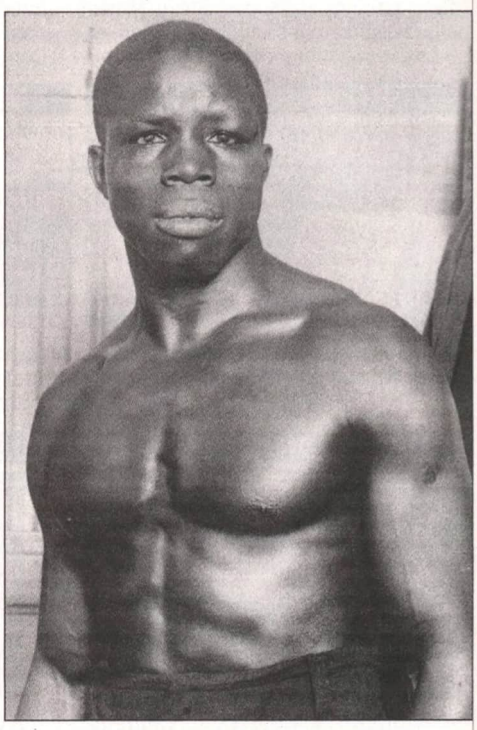
Whitaker will be inducted this June

Duran, 103-16 (70), would of course have been enshrined years ago had he not kept fighting until the age of 50. The legendary Panamanian ruled the lightweight division from 1972-'78, making 12 title defenses (11 by kayo), before moving up and winning belts at welterweight (where he handed Sugar Ray Leonard his first loss), junior middleweight, and middleweight. All told, "Hands Of Stone" fought professionally for more than 33 years.

Like Duran, 1984 Olympic gold medalist Whitaker, 40-4-1 (17), did his best work at lightweight and then moved up and won titles in three more weight classes. The southpaw defensive whiz unified all three lightweight belts, then won straps at 140, 147, and 154 pounds, never suffering a clear-cut loss until his second-to-last fight. After his bogus draw against Julio Cesar Chavez in 1993, "Sweet Pea" was universally recognized as boxing's best, pound-for-pound.

Lopez, 51-0-1 (38), never quite made it to the top of the P-4-P list, but he is on the extremely short list of fighters who retired as an undefeated champion, and his 21 consecutive strawweight title defenses rank him behind only Joe Louis on the all-time list. His eight-year reign ended with a stirring victory over Rosendo Alvarez, and then the Mexican mite moved up to junior flyweight, where he won a belt and made two defenses before retiring.

In addition to the three unofficial "headliners" in the "Modern" category, three fighters will be inducted as "Old-Timers": heavyweight George Godfrey, 97-20-3 (80), who was among the standout black fighters of the 1920s denied a title shot; Puerto Rican lightweight Pedro Montanez, 92-7-4 (54), who was considered by many to be the "uncrowned champion" in the mid-'30s; and light heavyweight Kid Norfolk, 58-14-2 (31) with 24 no-decisions, who famously defeated Harry Greb and, at just 5'8" and 170 pounds, held his own against some of the top heavyweights of the early-20th century.



Uncrowned champ Norfolk enters Hall

There will be two enshrinees in the "Pioneer" category: 1850s lightweight Young Barney Aaron, and 1820s lightweight Dick Curtis, who, interestingly, held a win over Aaron's father, Hall of Famer Barney Aaron. The "Non-Particant" category will include trainer Amilcar Brusa, matchmaker Cuco Conde, and WBC President Jose Sulaiman. The "Observer" category will see artist Leroy Neiman and cartoonist Tad Dorgan inducted.

For more information regarding Induction Weekend, go to www.ibhof.com or call 315-697-7095.

—Eric Raskin

Who Will Stay & Who Will Go?

Alphabet trinkets get won, lost, stripped, handed out for free, and split into "super" and "interim" factions on an almost daily basis, and it's reached the point where they're not even worth tracking anymore. But being a true champion, as recognized by THE RING, still means something. It means enough to make it worth our time to try to guess which of the men who currently hold our gold belts will still hold them a year from now.

Last year, we did reasonably well with this prognosticating endeavor. There were seven champions at the close of '05, and we correctly predicted the fates of five of them, only getting tripped up by Jean-Marc Mormeck, who we thought would get past O'Neil Bell, and by Jermain Taylor, who we thought would lose the middleweight title to Winky Wright. As those who watched the Taylor-Wright fight know, we were damned close to going 6-1.

Of course, we strive for perfection, and this year it'll be even tougher to post an undefeated slate because there were nine RING champions at the close of '06. There's a lot of potential division-hopping and potential retiring awaiting them, but here are our best guesses as to which titles will change hands in '07 and which won't:

O'Neil Bell (cruiserweight): Bell played it ultra-safe in his first year as champ by making zero defenses of the title he won on January 7, 2006, and he may continue playing it safe to kick off '07 by participating in the heavyweight "Superfighter" tournament if it gets rescheduled. As far as cruiser fights go, there's talk of a rematch with Mormeck. We won't make the mistake of calling Bell the underdog again. **Prognosis: Stay**

Bernard Hopkins (light heavyweight): "The Executioner" says he's not retired, and there are three fights he's targeting: Oleg Maskaev, Roy Jones, and Joe Calzaghe. A Jones fight will always be hard to negotiate, and Calzaghe seems to want a fight with Jermain Taylor more. That means it's heavyweight or nothing for Hopkins, and he's the type of honorable fighter who won't want to freeze up the 175-pound title forever. One way or another, we're guessing he vacates by the end of the summer. **Prognosis: Go**

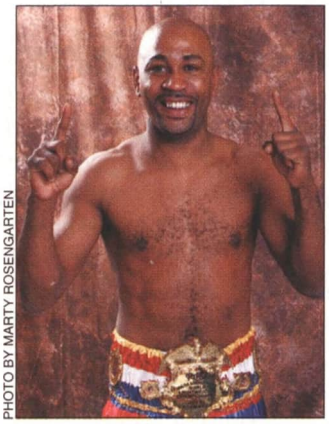


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Can Casamayor hang on to the lightweight title?

Joe Calzaghe (super middleweight): Is the Welshman as great as he looked against Jeff Lacy last March? Probably not. But he's good enough to be a heavy favorite against Peter Manfredo in April (especially in Cardiff), and he's good enough to beat Lacy's perpetual-work-in-progress Olympic teammate, Taylor, if that fight gets signed. **Prognosis: Stay**

Jermain Taylor (middleweight): Is there a harder fighter to figure out than Taylor, who repeatedly takes on the best opponents possible, always looks flawed and vulnerable, and always finds a way to maintain that zero in the loss column? He should be able to handle Sergio Mora, and if he fights Calzaghe, "Bad Intentions" says his intentions are, win or lose, to move back down to middleweight. **Prognosis: Stay**

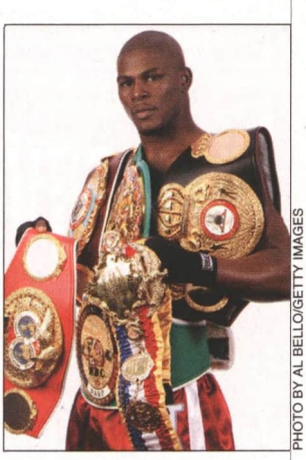


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Taylor figures to still be middle champ in a year's time

Floyd Mayweather (welterweight): Nobody grows out of divisions faster than Mayweather, who fought four times at lightweight, three at junior welter, three at welter, and is now headed up to junior middle to face Oscar De La Hoya on May 5. He says he'll retire after that, but even if he doesn't, we doubt he'll be moving back to 147. **Prognosis: Go**

Ricky Hatton (junior welterweight): Do not for one second buy into that nonsense about Hatton "challenging" Juan Urango for a junior welter belt. Hatton is still the champ, and Urango has just been keeping one of his baubles warm for him. After "The Hitman" ravages Urango, however, the plan is to take on Jose Luis Castillo. That's good news for the fans, but not great news for Hatton. Warriors like Hatton flame out quickly, and Castillo will either take his title, or take so much out of him that a depleted Hatton gets vanquished in his very next fight. **Prognosis: Go**

Joel Casamayor (lightweight): The new 135-pound king constantly fights up or down to the level of his competition, making it hard to predict what's in store for him regardless of who he fights. He may get Erik Morales; sounds like an easy assignment at this point, but you never know with Casamayor. Maybe he'll face Acelino Freitas; sounds tougher, but you never know with Casamayor. This one's a coin flip. But we'll say being champion motivates the Cuban enough to survive one year. **Prognosis: Stay**

Israel Vazquez (junior featherweight): Knowing Vazquez is a vulnerable but gutsy fighter, we gave him the benefit of the doubt last year and said he'd make it through a year as champ. But two years? That's a lot to ask of a guy who was getting his butt handed to him for six rounds by bantamweight Jhonny Gonzalez. Good for Vazquez for storming back and keeping his reign alive, but with potential opponents like Rafael Marquez, Celestino Cabellero, and Daniel Ponce De Leon lurking, it can't go on too much longer. **Prognosis: Go**

Hugo Cazares (junior flyweight): After three losses and a draw in his first 13 fights, this Mexican has developed wonderfully and constructed a seven-year, 15-fight winning streak. Who's out there at 108 pounds who can beat him? Certainly not awful WBO mandatory Wilfrido Valdez Perez. Cazares is looking as safe as any champ in '07. **Prognosis: Stay**

—Eric Raskin

TV Fights of the Month

Date	Winner/Loser	Network	Division	Significance	Matchup	Result
11/25/06	Juan Manuel Marquez KO 9 Jimrex Jaca	HBO	f	B+	C+	C+
Hey Juan Manuel, go ahead and quit—you're ahead on the cards!						
12/1/06	Timothy Bradley W 8 Jaime Rangal	Showtime	jw	C	B	C+
Closer than the judges had it, but we're okay with a win for Bradley						
12/1/06	Mario Santiago KO 7 Salvador Garcia	Showtime	f	C-	B+	C
If there is a cooler visual in all of sports than a white towel fluttering into a ring, we haven't seen it						
12/3/06	Antonio Margarito W 12 Joshua Clottey	Showtime	w	A-	B	C+
It won't happen, but who else would like to see this again, assuming Clottey doesn't bust his hand?						
12/3/06	Miguel Cotto KO 5 Carlos Quintana	Showtime	w	A-	B+	B
As good as Cotto was at 140, he's better at 147; that's very good indeed						
12/3/06	Jeff Lacy W 10 Vitali Tsypko	HBO	sm	A	C+	B
Give Lacy credit; winning with a torn rotator cuff ain't easy						
12/3/06	Winky Wright W 12 Ike Quartey	HBO	m	A+	C-	C-
That Wright tried so hard and was still boring is what's so sad						
12/8/06	Jose Angel Beranza W 10 Ivan Hernandez	Telef	jf	C+	C	C+
Upset! This could have gone Hernandez' way just as easily, but Beranza earned it						
12/8/06	Daniel Jimenez KO 9 Angel Recio	Telef	jl	C	B+	C+
Jimenez a bit too crafty for Recio, who will beat a lot of guys just on his strength						
12/9/06	Andre Berto KO 5 Miguel Figueroa	HBO	w	C+	C	C-
Who else wanted HBO to follow Figueroa back to the dressing room? That's where the good stuff was						
12/9/06	**Jermain Taylor W 12 Kassim Ouma**	**HBO**	**world m**	**A+**	**C+**	**C**
Taylor's got the best trainer in the world in his corner and he's getting by on athleticism; what a waste						
12/9/06	Oliver McCall KO 7 Yanqui Diaz	PPV	h	D-	B-	C-
Sure McCall's a train wreck, but no one said old train wrecks can't punch						
12/9/06	Michael Moorer KO 1 Cliff Couser	PPV	h	C-	C-	B-
This comeback ends as soon as Moorer is required to throw more than four punches a round						
12/15/06	Jesus Gonzalez W 8 Darnell Boone	Telef	m	C-	C	C
This could have gone Boone's way, even without the bogus knockdown in the first						
12/15/06	Jesus Soto Karass KO 6 Luciano Perez	Telef	w	C+	C+	C+
Give Perez credit for lasting as long as he did; he was dissected						
12/16/06	Jose Hernandez KO 8 Jason Litzau	HBO	f	C+	B+	B+
Whether or not Litzau fought dumbly, give credit to Hernandez for winging punches						
12/16/06	Edison Miranda KO 1 Willie Gibbs	HBO	m	B-	C+	B-
Miranda's not the most polished guy at 160, but he may be the hardest hitter						
12/22/06	Brandon Rios W 8 Humberto Tapia	Telef	l	C+	B+	C+
This was much closer than the judges had it, but Rios is a good-looking prospect either way						
12/22/06	Miguel Angel Huerta KO 6 Antonio Ramirez	Telef	l	C	B	B+
Isn't it cool when guys with mediocre records get a televised main event?						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

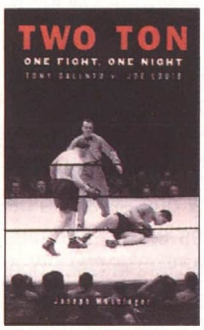
(RING championship fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox Sports Net;Uni—Univision; Telef—Telefutura; Telem—Telemundo; HBO L—HBO Latino; Versus

Boxing Bookshelf

With *Two Ton: One Fight, One Night, Tony Galento v. Joe Louis* (Steerforth Press, hardback, 208 pages, $19.95) author Joseph Monninger has written a slim volume about one of boxing's most famous fat men. And by focusing on the greatest night of Galento's career—the night that the roly-poly, beer-swilling bartender from Orange, New Jersey, put heavyweight champion Joe Louis on the floor—Monninger has left himself room to explore the cultural milieu in which the fight took place.



Unlike the brawling Galento, Monninger is a bit of a Fancy Dan, and Chapter One opens with a lengthy paragraph describing the weather conditions on a typical New Jersey summer day. It's this sort of filler that is the greatest weakness of an otherwise worthy and well-written book. In this same vein, Monninger also resorts to the old writer's ploy of padding the pages with lengthy lists of cultural miscellany such as the products advertised in the January 1938 edition of *Women's Home Companion* and the top movies at the box office.

But when Monninger sticks to boxing, the results are much more satisfying. Galento, one of the Sweet Science's most famous characters, comes off pretty much as expected, a man with a Promethean appetite for life and a left hook capable of toppling a legend. Today's Butterbean is but a faint echo of the loveable slob persona "Two Ton" Tony originated, and Monninger does an excellent job of fleshing out and adding a human dimension to a man often stereotyped.

I found the story of Galento's great sorrow at the death of his horse particularly revealing. Before the big money started rolling in, he delivered ice between fights (and sometimes on his way to fights) and owned his own horse and cart. One day, the poor nag dropped dead in the street, and Tony "mourned the animal's passing with a long crying fit. He erected a monument in the backyard, declaring at the time that, 'That horse was as strong as I was and I had to have something built for his memory.'"

The Louis-Galento fight lasted only until 2:29 of the fourth round, when referee Arthur Donovan rescued Tony from the merciless fists of Louis, but what took place during those highly eventful and dramatic rounds is described in great detail and considerable insight. I do not, however, buy all of Monninger's psychobabble, such as his take on the crowd of 38,852 that gathered at Yankee Stadium for the fight: "Mixed in their expressions is a sly shame that they participated in this, and had carried the combatants forward by the price of their admission."

Baloney. The vast majority of fans feel no shame prior to a big fight, just the fervent hope that they'll get what they paid for—a cracking good fight.

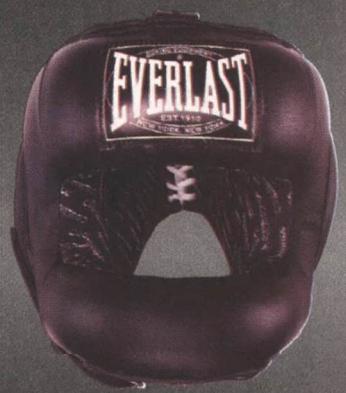
Nonetheless, many of Monninger's observations are as on-target as the punches Louis used to reduce Galento to a helpless pile of blubber. He certainly understands the root of Galento's great appeal: "A large portion of the nation pulled for Galento, for an underdog it understood somewhere in its guts, for a clown and a man who made them laugh, who might, with superb luck, redeem their own foolish lives by giving everything in one sublime moment."

The closest Galento got to that "sublime moment" came when he knocked Louis to the canvas with a left hook in the third round. It was the defining moment of Two Ton Tony's life.

"In Joe Louis' long career, it was a hiccup, nothing else," writes Monninger. "In Galento's life, it became the punch line to an eternal joke, the glimmer of a championship held for two seconds."

Despite the extraneous detours into social science, Monninger's laudable book warrants a much longer stay in the boxing library than Galento lasted with Louis.

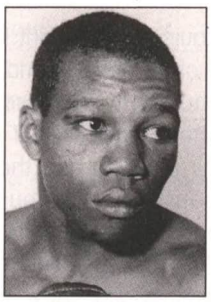
—Nigel Collins

EVERLAST®
EVERLASTBOXING.COM


CALL 1.800.777.0313 or visit
EVERLASTBOXING.COM
for your free Everlast Catalog
featuring Arturro Gatti

Outside the Ropes

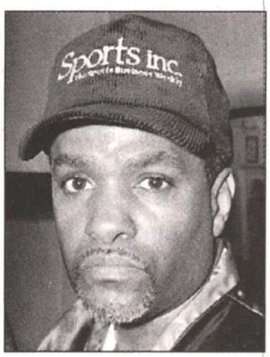
Former junior welterweight champion **Kostya Tszyu**, who last year appeared on the Australian version of *Dancing With The Stars*, will make his acting debut in a movie that will begin filming in his native Russia in April. "It is going to be exciting for me to be an actor because I have to learn new skills," said Tszyu. "And for the part I'm playing, I will be doing some practice with Samurai swords" ... In other movie news, it has been reported that pop diva **Madonna** is planning to direct a film based on the tragic 1962 fight between **Emile Griffith** and **Benny "Kid" Paret**, which resulted in Paret's death. Madonna has a difficult task ahead of her if she is going to top *Ring Of Fire*, the acclaimed 2005 documentary about that ill-fated fight, directed by **Ron Berger** and **Dan Klores** ... The **New York Jets** got a boost from former junior welterweight titleholder and International Boxing Hall of Fame member **Aaron Pryor** before the NFL team's December 17 victory over the **Minnesota Vikings**, when Jets coach **Eric Mangini** showed his players a video message form Pryor. **Frankie Pryor**, the boxer's wife, found out that Mangini had showed a tape of one of her husband's bouts prior to an earlier game and contacted the Jets, facilitating the taped pep talk. "He was an impressive fighter," said Mangini. "He was relentless" ... The U.S. Senate Ethics Commission has cleared new Senate Majority Leader **Harry Reid** of any wrongdoing in accepting free ringside tickets to boxing matches from the Nevada State Athletic Commission. During the time period in which Reid received ringside credentials, he was supporting legislation to create a federal agency to oversea boxing, something the NSAC opposed. The legislation passed the Senate but died in the House ... Troubled Scottish featherweight **Scott Harrison** finally secured his released from a Spanish prison where he had been incarcerated since October following an alleged drunken rampage, but his scheduled defense of the WBO title against **Nicky Cook** had to be scratched when Harrison was unable to make the 126-pound weight limit. The last-minute cancellation left promoter **Frank Warren** threatening legal action. "Scott will be lucky if he ever fights again," said Warren. "After all his problems, who would want to take the risk with him in future?" Not only is Harrison facing a possible 11 years in prison if he's convicted in Spain, he is also due in court in February to answer other charges ... In early-December, former WBA bantamweight titleholder **Johnny Bredahl**, 38, was assaulted in Copenhagen. The attack took place early in the morning when Bredahl, 56-2 (26), was on his way home after a party. Danish police have arrested a 19-year old man for the attack. Bredahl, who last fought in March 2006, is expected to make a full recovery despite a bad beating ... Car crashes ended the lives of two promising boxers in December. British junior welterweight **Gary Barker**, 19, a junior ABA titleholder, was killed when his car collided with motorway barriers. A police spokeswoman said Barker lost control of his car, which hit the barriers, rolled over, and landed on its roof. Barker was taken to Luton & Dunstable Hospital, but pronounced dead from multiple injuries shortly afterward. On the other side of the Atlantic, junior middleweight **Enrique Palau**, 27, was killed when he apparently went through a stop sign and smashed into a wall in Worcester, Massachusetts. **Amanda H. Snaras**, 25, a mother of two, who was a passenger in Palau's vehicle, was also killed. Palau, who had turned pro in November 2005, had a record of 7-0 (5) at the time of his death. His final bout had been four days earlier, when he won a six-round decision over **Hollister Elliot** in Boston ... Trainer **John Davenport**, 65, died in early-December following a lengthy battle with cancer. Davenport is best known for being **Lennox Lewis**' first trainer when the future heavyweight champion turned pro after winning a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics. In 1967, Davenport started a boxing program at the Plainfield (New Jersey) Second Street Youth Center that produced many outstanding amateur and professional boxers, including **Harold "The Shadow" Knight**, **Glenwood Brown**, **Tracy Spann**, and **Chris Reid**. One of Davenport's proudest accomplishments was his 1983 appointment to serve in Operation Gold, a program that produced a deep pool of Olympic talent for the United States' 1984 boxing team.



Paret: Subject of Madonna-directed movie

PHOTO BY JOHN GURZINSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bredahl: Assaulted in Copenhagen



Davenport: Dead at age 65

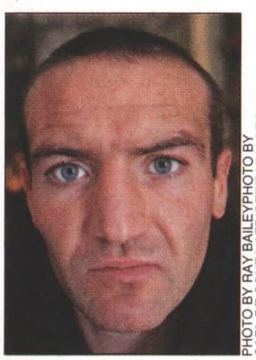


PHOTO BY RAY BAILEY/PHOTO BY CARL DE SOUZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Harrison: Career and freedom in jeopardy

Quotable

"I'm gonna knock him out. He's too young and inexperienced, he only has 20 fights. He just came off a draw with Ray Austin in a fight I felt Austin won ... Sultan did not impress me!"

—Shannon Briggs predicting what will happen when he faces Sultan Ibragimov March 10 at Madison Square Garden

"Billy is like me, a Virgo. When we are determined to do something, we are going to get it done. He works hard and I have seen what he has done. Everybody says we do Tae Bo. We do not do Tae Bo."

—James Toney on new his conditioning coach Billy Blanks, creator of Tae Bo

[Ratings Analysis]

For Period Ended December 21, 2006

Heavyweights: No changes.
Cruiserweights: Krzysztof Wlodarczyk surges from six to one, thanks to a 12-round decision over Steve Cunningham (first last issue) for the vacant IBF belt. Cunningham slides down to two, and Jean-Marc Mormeck (second last issue) to three. David Haye moves from five to four, while Vadim Tokarev (seventh last issue), Enzo Maccarinelli (eighth last issue), and Firat Arslan (ninth last issue) each advance two places. Marco Huck debuts at eight, after beating departing Pietro Aurino (fourth last issue). Johnathon Banks moves from 10 to nine, and veteran Virgil Hill enters at 10.
Light heavyweights: No changes.
Super middleweights: No changes.
Middleweights: Mariano Carrera debuts at four after beating Javier Castillejo (fourth last issue), who drops to five. The ripple at middleweight sends Sam Soliman (fifth last issue), Felix Sturm (sixth last issue), Amin Asikainen (seventh last issue), and Sebastian Sylvester (eighth last issue) down one place each. Kingsley Ikeke (ninth last issue) and Scott Dann (10th last issue) exit. Kelly Pavlik enters at 10.
Junior middleweights: No changes.
Welterweights: Miguel Cotto makes his welterweight debut at three, after stopping Carlos Quintana (ninth last issue). Cotto's inclusion sends everyone ranked third and below down one position. Quintana exits the ratings and Joshua Clottey holds his place at 10.
Junior welterweights: Cotto (first last issue) departs for welterweight, allowing everyone from two and below to move up one notch. Cotto's move north also makes room for Ricardo Torres at 10.
Lightweights: No changes.
Junior lightweights: No changes.
Featherweights: Injin Chi leaps from five to three, after beating Rodolfo Lopez (third last issue), who drops to four, while Takashi Koshimoto falls from four to five. Spend Abazi (seventh last issue), Hiroyuki Enoki (eighth last issue), Nicky Cook (ninth last issue), and Jorge Solis (10th last issue) all move up one place. Martin Honorio debuts at 10.
Junior featherweights: No changes.
Bantamweights: No changes.
Junior bantamweights: Masamori Tokuyama (first last issue) exits to campaign at bantamweight, moving everyone up from two through 10. Tokuyama's departure makes room for Pramuansak Posuwan at 10.
Flyweights: Roberto Vazquez enters at six, after beating Takefumi Sakata, who falls from six to seven. The addition of Vazquez drops Victor Burgos (seventh last issue), Luis Maldonado (eighth last issue), and Daisuke Naito (ninth last issue) one placr each. Jose Lopez (10th last issue) departs.
Junior flyweights: Koki Kameda (second last issue) earns the top spot, switching with Ulises Solis (first last issue), following another victory over Juan Landaeta, who stays at three.

The RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

Pound-For-Pound

1. **Floyd Mayweather**
   Welterweight
2. **Manny Pacquiao**
   Junior Lightweight
3. **Winky Wright**
   Middleweight
4. **Jermain Taylor**
   Middleweight
5. **Bernard Hopkins**
   Light Heavyweight
6. **Marco Antonio Barrera**
   Junior Lightweight
7. **Rafael Marquez**
   Bantamweight
8. **Ricky Hatton**
   Junior Welterweight
9. **Jose Luis Castillo**
   Junior Welterweight
10. **Joe Calzaghe**
    Super Middleweight

For weekly updated Ring ratings, go to **TheRing-online.com**

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended December 21, 2006

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by The Ring are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled by winning a box-off between The Ring's number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

The Ring Ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board, with the participation of The Ring Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on "Ratings" at thering-online.com

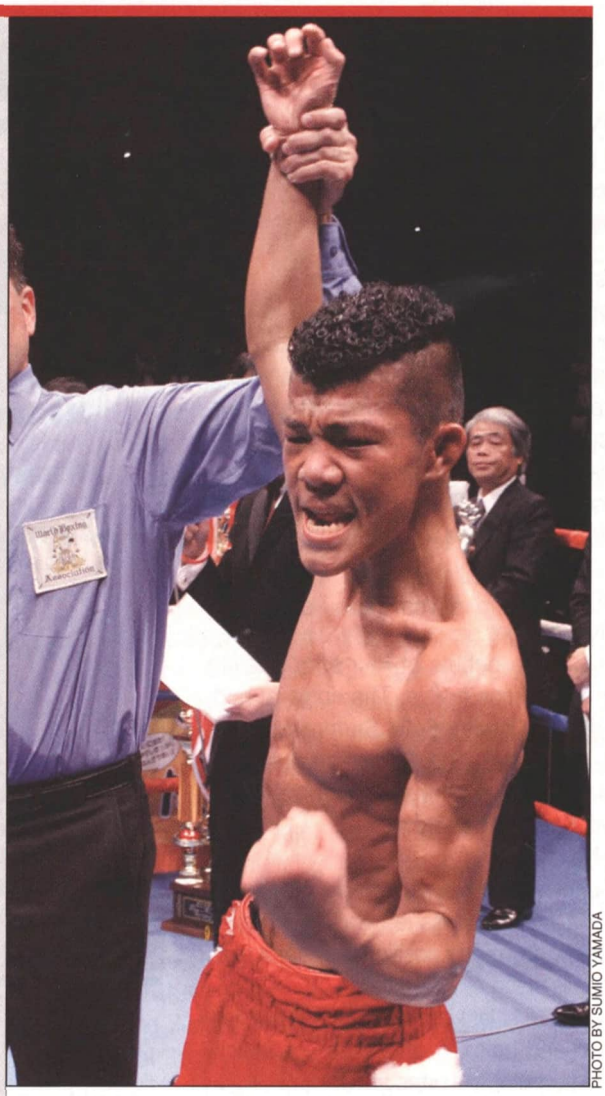


PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Koki Kameda moves to number one at junior flyweight

Heavyweights

Weight Unlimited

Champ: Vacant

1. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** Ukraine 47-3 (42)
2. **OLEG MASKAEV** Staten Island, NY 34-5 (26)
3. **SAMUEL PETER** Las Vegas, NV 27-1 (22)
4. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI 69-5-3 (43)
5. **SHANNON BRIGGS** Brooklyn, NY 48-4-1 (42)
6. **SERGEI LIAKHOVICH** Belarus, 23-2 (14)
7. **LAMON BREWSTER** Los Angeles, CA 33-3 (29)
8. **NICOLAY VALUEV** Russia 45-0 (33)
9. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV** Uzbekistan 22-0-1 (17)
10. **JOHN RUIZ** Methuen, MA 41-7-1 (28)

Jr. Middleweights

Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **SHANE MOSLEY** Pomona, CA 43-4 (37)
2. **CORY SPINKS** St. Louis, MO 35-3 (11)
3. **ROMAN KARMAZIN** Russia 34-2-1 (21)
4. **KASSIM OUMA** W. Palm Beach, FL 25-3-1 (15)
5. **SERGEI DZINDZIRUK** Germany 32-0 (21)
6. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Los Angeles, CA 38-4 (30)
7. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Oxnard, CA 26-4 (22)
8. **VERNON FORREST** Atlanta, GA 38-2 (28)
9. **IKE QUARTEY** Ghana 37-4-1 (31)
10. **VERNO PHILLIPS** Aurora, CO 40-10-1 (21)

Featherweights

Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CHRIS JOHN** Indonesia 38-0-1 (20)
2. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico 46-3-1 (35)
3. **INJIN CHI** South Korea 31-3-1 (18)
4. **RODOLFO LOPEZ** Mexico 19-3-1 (13)
5. **TAKASHI KOSHIMOTO** Japan 39-1-2 (17)
6. **SPEND ABAZI** Denmark 32-1 (10)
7. **HIROYUKI ENOKI** Japan 25-0-1 (18)
8. **NICKY COOK** England 27-0 (15)
9. **JORGE SOLIS** Mexico 31-0-2 (22)
10. **MARTIN HONORIO** Mexico 22-3-1 (12)

Jr. Featherweights

Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: ISRAEL VAZQUEZ Mexico 41-3 (31)

1. **CELESTINO CABALLERO** Panama 25-2 (18)
2. **RICARDO CORDOBA** Panama 28-1-1 (19)
3. **SOMSAK SITHCHATCHAWAL** Thailand 46-2-1 (37)
4. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON** Mexico 30-1 (28)
5. **SERGIO MANUEL MEDINA** Argentina 25-0 (15)
6. **GABULA VABAZA** South Africa 23-0-1 (5)
7. **STEVE MOLITOR** Canada 23-0 (9)
8. **JHONNY GONZALEZ** Mexico 33-5 (28)
9. **TAKALANI NDLOVU** South Africa 26-3 (17)
10. **BERNARD DUNNE** Ireland 22-0 (13)

Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ** Mexico 36-3 (32)
2. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA** Japan 21-2 (7)
3. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM** Thailand 52-3-2 (37)
4. **WLADIMIR SIDORENKO** Ukraine 19-0-1 (6)
5. **SILENCE MABUZA** South Africa 19-2 (15)
6. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN** Thailand 67-9 (44)
7. **GENARO GARCIA** Mexico 35-5 (20)
8. **IRENE PACHECO** Colombia 33-1 (24)
9. **SIMONE MALUDROTTU** Italy 23-1 (9)
10. **POONSAWAT KRATINGAENGGYM** Thailand 26-1 (17)

Cruiserweights
Weight Limit: 200 pounds

Champ: O'NEIL BELL
Atlanta, GA 26-1-1 (24)

1. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
Poland 37-1 (27)
2. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM**
Philadelphia, PA 19-1 (10)
3. **JEAN-MARC MORMECK**
France 32-3 (22)
4. **DAVID HAYE**
England 18-1 (17)
5. **VADIM TOKAREV**
Russia 22-0-1 (15)
6. **ENZO MACCARINELLI**
Wales 25-1 (19)
7. **FIRAT ARSLAN**
Germany 26-3-1 (18)
8. **MARCO HUCK**
Germany 17-0 (13)
9. **JOHNATHON BANKS**
Detroit, MI 13-0 (10)
10. **VIRGIL HILL**
Willison, ND 50-5 (23)

Light Heavyweights
Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA 47-4-1 (32)

1. **ANTONIO TARVER**
Orlando, FL 24-4 (18)
2. **ZSOLT ERDEI**
Hungary 25-0 (15)
3. **CLINTON WOODS**
England 40-3-1 (24)
4. **GLEN JOHNSON**
Miami, FL 44-11-2 (29)
5. **TOMASZ ADAMEK**
Poland 31-0 (21)
6. **PAUL BRIGGS**
Australia 25-3 (18)
7. **ROY JONES**
Pensacola, FL 50-4 (38)
8. **JULIO GONZALEZ**
Huntington Beach, CA 41-3 (25)
9. **HUGO GARAY**
Argentina 27-2 (14)
10. **CHAD DAWSON**
New Haven, CT 23-0 (15)

Super Middleweights
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: JOE CALZAGHE
Wales 42-0 (31)

1. **MIKKEL KESSLER**
Denmark 38-0 (29)
2. **ANTHONY MUNDINE**
Australia 27-3 (21)
3. **JEFF LACY**
St. Petersburg, FL 22-1 (17)
4. **MARKUS BEYER**
Germany 34-3-1 (13)
5. **LIBRADO ANDRADE**
Mexico 24-0 (18)
6. **LUCIAN BUTE**
Canada 17-0 (16)
7. **CARL FROCH**
England 20-0 (16)
8. **ALLAN GREEN**
Tulsa, OK 23-0 (16)
9. **DENIS INKIN**
Germany 29-0 (22)
10. **PETER MANFREDO JR.**
Pawtucket, RI 26-3 (12)

Middleweights
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: JERMAIN TAYLOR
Little Rock, AR 26-0-1 (17)

1. **WINKY WRIGHT**
St. Petersburg, FL 51-3-1 (25)
2. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM**
Germany 22-0 (17)
3. **EDISON MIRANDA**
Colombia 27-1 (24)
4. **MARIANO CARRERA**
Argentina 30-4 (21)
5. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO**
Spain 61-7 (41)
6. **SAM SOLIMAN**
Australia 33-8 (13)
7. **FELIX STURM**
Germany 26-2 (12)
8. **AMIN ASIKAINEN**
Finland 18-0 (14)
9. **SEBASTIAN SYLVESTER**
Germany 24-2 (11)
10. **KELLY PAVLIK**
Youngstown, OH 29-0 (26)

Welterweights
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: FLOYD MAYWEATHER
Grand Rapids, MI 37-0 (24)

1. **ANTONIO MARGARITO**
Mexico 34-4 (24)
2. **CARLOS BALDOMIR**
Argentina 43-10-6 (13)
3. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico 28-0 (23)
4. **ZAB JUDAH**
Brooklyn, NY 34-4 (25)
5. **LUIS COLLAZO**
Queens, NY 27-2 (13)
6. **KERMIT CINTRON**
Reading, PA 27-1 (25)
7. **OKTAY URKAL**
Germany 38-3 (12)
8. **ARTURO GATTI**
Jersey City, NJ 40-8 (31)
9. **PAUL WILLIAMS**
Augusta, GA 32-0 (24)
10. **JOSHUA CLOTTEY**
Ghana 29-2 (18)

Jr. Welterweights
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: RICKY HATTON
England 41-0 (30)

1. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO**
Mexico 54-7-1 (47)
2. **JUNIOR WITTER**
England 34-1-2 (19)
3. **VIVIAN HARRIS**
Brooklyn, NY 27-2-1 (18)
4. **LOVEMORE NDOU**
Australia 43-8-1 (28)
5. **SOULEYMANE M'BAYE**
France 35-1 (20)
6. **DeMARCUS CORLEY**
Washington, DC 31-5-1 (17)
7. **JUAN LAZCANO**
El Paso, TX 37-3-1 (27)
8. **DEMETRIUS HOPKINS**
Philadelphia, PA 25-0-1 (10)
9. **KENDALL HOLT**
Paterson, NJ 21-1 (12)
10. **RICARDO TORRES**
Colombia 30-1 (27)

Lightweights
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: JOEL CASAMAYOR
Miami, FL 34-3-1 (21)

1. **JUAN DIAZ**
Houston, TX 31-0 (15)
2. **JULIO DIAZ**
Coachella, CA 33-3 (24)
3. **ZAHIR RAHEEM**
Las Vegas, NV 27-2 (16)
4. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
Mexico 42-3 (29)
5. **DAVID DIAZ**
Chicago, IL 32-1-1 (17)
6. **NATE CAMPBELL**
Jacksonville, FL 29-5-1 (24)
7. **ALMAZBEK RAIYMKULOV**
Las Vegas, NV 23-1-1 (14)
8. **JOSE SANTA CRUZ**
Mexico 23-2 (13)
9. **GRAHAM EARL**
England 25-1 (12)
10. **YURI ROMANOV**
Belarus 18-2 (12)

Jr. Lightweights
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines 43-3-2 (33)
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico 63-4 (42)
3. **JOAN GUZMAN**
Dominican Republic 27-0 (17)
4. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico 48-5 (34)
5. **JORGE BARRIOS**
Argentina 46-3-1 (33)
6. **ROCKY JUAREZ**
Houston, TX 26-3 (18)
7. **EDWIN VALERO**
Venezuela 20-0 (20)
8. **VICENTE MOSQUERA**
Panama 24-2-1 (12)
9. **YODSANAN NANTHACHAI**
Thailand 50-3-1 (39)
10. **ALEX ARTHUR**
Scotland 24-1 (18)

Jr. Bantamweights
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **NOBUO NASHIRO**
Japan 10-0 (5)
2. **MARTIN CASTILLO**
Mexico 30-2 (16)
3. **LUIS PEREZ**
Nicaragua 24-1 (15)
4. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
Mexico 32-2-1 (24)
5. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ**
Venezuela 28-2 (26)
6. **CRISTIAN MIJARES**
Mexico 29-3-2 (11)
7. **KATSUSHIGE KAWASHIMA**
Japan 30-5 (20)
8. **JORGE ARCE**
Mexico 45-3-1 (35)
9. **JOSE NAVARRO**
Los Angeles, CA 24-2 (10)
10. **PRAMUANSAK POSUWAN**
Thailand 33-1-1 (18)

Flyweights
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
Thailand 63-2 (32)
2. **LORENZO PARRA**
Venezuela 27-0 (17)
3. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
Australia 27-0 (21)
4. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina 23-0-2 (15)
5. **BRAHIM ASLOUM**
France 21-1 (8)
6. **ROBERTO VASQUEZ**
Panama 24-1 (17)
7. **TAKEFUMI SAKATA**
Japan 28-4-1 (13)
8. **VICTOR BURGOS**
Mexico 39-14-3 (22)
9. **LUIS MALDONADO**
Mexico 34-1-1 (26)
10. **DAISUKE NAITO**
Japan 30-2-2 (19)

Jr. Flyweights
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: HUGO CAZARES
Mexico 24-3-1 (18)

1. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan 13-0 (10)
2. **ULISES SOLIS**
Mexico 22-1-2 (16)
3. **JUAN LANDAETA**
Venezuela 20-5-1 (16)
4. **NELSON DIEPPA**
Puerto Rico 24-3-2 (13)
5. **OMAR NINO**
Mexico 24-2-2 (10)
6. **BRIAN VILORIA**
Waipahu, HI 19-1-1 (12)
7. **WILL GRIGSBY**
St. Paul, MN 18-3-1 (7)
8. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
Mexico 34-5-1 (20)
9. **NOBUAKI MASUDA**
Japan 23-3-1 (3)
10. **OMAR SALADO**
Mexico 14-0-2 (7)

Strawweights
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **IVAN CALDERON**
Puerto Rico 27-0 (6)
2. **YUTAKA NIIDA**
Japan 20-1-3 (8)
3. **MUHAMMAD RACHMAN**
Indonesia 61-5-5 (31)
4. **EAGLE KYOWA**
Japan 17-1 (6)
5. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
Japan 18-2 (7)
6. **OMAR SOTO**
Mexico 15-3-1 (10)
7. **DANIEL REYES**
Colombia 37-4-1 (30)
8. **RODEL MAYOL**
Philippines 23-1 (18)
9. **ISAAC BUSTOS**
Mexico 24-8-3 (13)
10. **ERIBERTO GEJON**
Philippines 21-1-1 (13)

By Jeff Ryan

Everybody's "0" Must Go

Don't believe a word of flaky Floyd Mayweather's far-fetched fistic fibbing. "Pretty Boy" is about as likely to retire after waging war with Oscar De La Hoya on May 5 as Nicolay Valuev is to dethrone George Clooney the next time *People* names its "Sexiest Man Alive." Mayweather's last fight? Yeah, right. Perhaps his last fight in the spring of 2007. Or his last fight on Cinco de Mayo against an Olympic gold medalist who was once engaged to a Miss USA. Or maybe his last fight in that particular pair of sweatsocks. But hardly Mayweather's last fight forever.

Mayweather is no fool (even though he sure acts like one sometimes). He knows there's one very simple reason he can't quit after this next outing, the 38th in a career that will one day be immortalized in Canastota. And no, it has nothing to do with all the money that would still be waiting for him in the future, an addiction to crowd noise, or the fact that every great warrior seems genetically programmed to carry on until he eventually leaves his accomplishments more tarnished than an octogenarian's favorite cereal spoon.

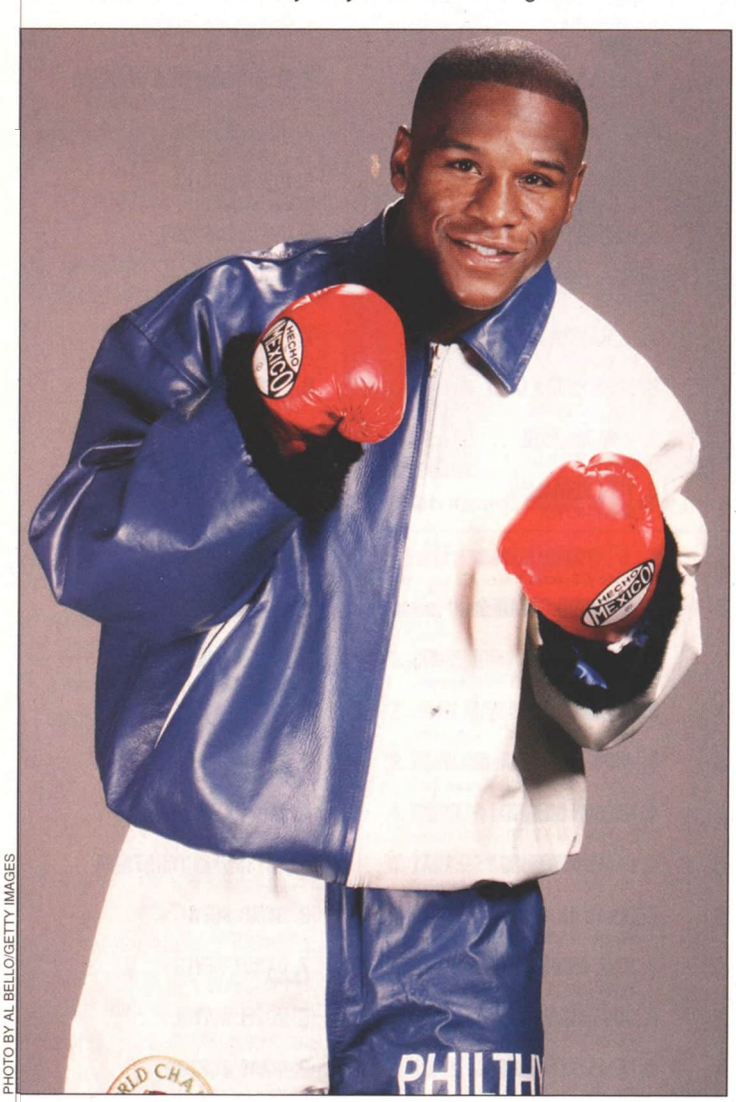


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

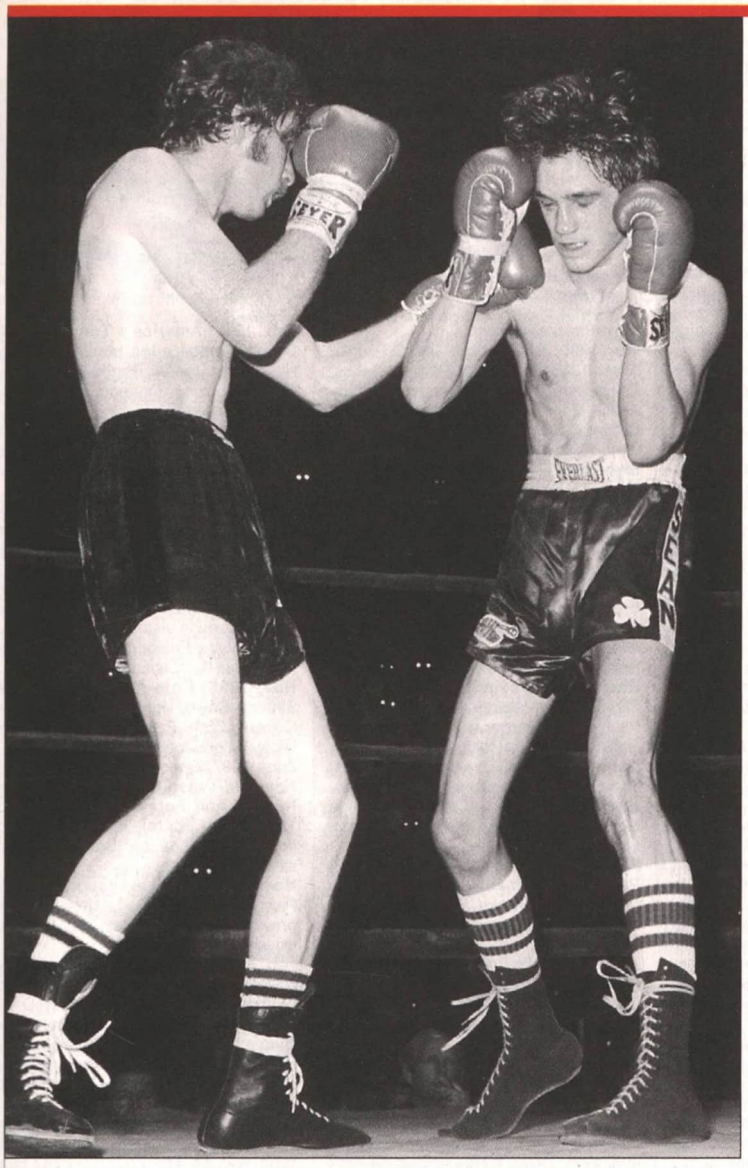
No way "Pretty Boy" retires after the De La Hoya fight

The reason: If Pretty Boy concludes that, come hell or high spit bucket, this is his finale, then he's going to lose or draw on May 5. It's guaranteed. Because one of the undisputed truths of the Sweet Science (as certain as death and sanctioning fees) is that guys just don't retire undefeated and untied.

Now, before my mailbox starts getting jammed up by dorks informing me that cruiserweight Ernie Enswell went 4-0 (3) in clubfights staged in the basement of a saloon in Moonachie, New Jersey, in the mid-'80s before he retired to a life as a chestnut vendor, let me clarify. I'm talking about *world-class* fighters finishing with *perfect* records. (Even former strawweight/junior flyweight champ Ricardo Lopez, who went 51-0-1, ex-junior featherweight king Ji Won Kim, who was 16-0-2, and middleweight contender Laszlo Papp, 27-0-2, couldn't walk away completely unblemished.)

Two men who did go home a winner every single night that they punched for pay were heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano and super middleweight titleholder Sven Ottke. And yet, even their perfect marks are slightly tainted. Did "The Brockton Blockbuster," who went 49-0, actually lose his first battle with Roland LaStarza? Marciano escaped with a split decision some ringsiders thought he didn't earn. And would Ottke have remained unbeaten and untied if he hadn't fought all 22 of his world title bouts—that's right, all 22—in his native Germany?

Before squaring off with undefeated Mike Tyson in 1988, undefeated Michael Spinks declared, "Somebody's '0' must go." And it's strange in how many different ways through the years a boxer's "0" has managed to go. Some guys get their defeat out of the way early. Roberto Duran lost his 32nd fight, and then rattled off 41



O'Grady's father was relieved when Sean lost his unbeaten tag to Lopez

straight victories. Others build great expectations only to have them crushed at the worst possible time. Heavyweight champion Larry Holmes was 48-0, one win away from tying Marciano's magical mark, when, as if being haunted by "The Rock's" ghost, he was upset by Spinks, a *light heavyweight* king. Muhammad Ali appeared unbeatable when he was forced into exile. Four years later, Joe Frazier showed us that he wasn't.

There are even a couple of examples of fighters who were roaring down a super highway of success, were derailed by their own stupid behavior, but at least gave their fans the consolation (and bar-stool arguing ammunition) of having departed undefeated. Such were the cases when Tony Ayala Jr. went to prison for sexual assault and Aaron Pryor's prime was cut short by drug use and eye problems. Had "Torito" and "The Hawk" never fought again, there would have been some mystique to their resumes. But both made comebacks and, of course, tasted defeat.

Sometimes there's a real benefit in *not* staying unbeaten. Pat O' Grady said he was relieved when his son, Sean, was stopped by Danny "Little Red" Lopez in career outing number 30 because the loss eliminated the pressure to remain perfect. And Dad looked smart when Sean went 44-0 over the next four years. Marvin Hagler's early defeats to Willie "The Worm" Monroe and Bobby "Boogaloo" Watts (the latter a bad decision) stoked his fury and launched him on an 11-year winning streak. Hagler, who derived incredible motivation from the feeling that he had to keep proving himself, probably wouldn't have been as Marvelous had those two "Ls" not been hung on him.

One would think that in an environment as controlled as the fight game, it should be much easier to go through an entire career without faltering. After all, managers can duck dangerous rivals, there's no minimum amount of action a fighter has to take part in over the course of his career, and mismatches are as accepted in the sport as mouthpieces and 10-point must scoring. But boxing is an athletic test unlike any other. And asking a fighter to march through its minefield for years without sustaining any kind of casualty is simply unrealistic.

The most talented of fighters can't do anything about the frailty of the skin around his eyes, nor the fact the he was accidentally butted while trailing on the cards. Sometimes he can't harness his emotions. (If a prime Roy Jones could mar his record for the first time by getting himself disqualified, *anyone* can.) He can be the victim of bad scoring or a referee's blunder (losing a crucial point for a "low blow" that wasn't really low or a slip that was ruled a knockdown). He can injure a hand during battle or suffer from one of the many maladies that would make it hard for most of us to get through a day at the office (a distracting domestic dilemma, diarrhea, a headache, a throbbing tooth, a stuffed nose), let alone through 10 rounds.

And there are several ways to not be on one's game, especially against elite competition. A fighter can be stale from too many bouts or too much training, rusty from too little action, or simply having an inexplicable bad night.

Face it, every fighter loses at some point. Sugar Ray Robinson, the most perfect pugilist God ever created, lost to the crude Jake LaMotta. Even in the movies, for heaven's sake, everyone falters. Our favorite mumbling "Italian Stallion" from Philly already had a few defeats on his record before the opening credits even rolled on the first *Rocky* film.

So, Valuev, Joe Calzaghe, Ricky Hatton, Miguel Cotto, Ivan Calderon, Juan Diaz, Mikkel Kessler, and the rest of you unbeaten and untied, don't get too comfy up there in the O-zone. The odds are that a couple of years from now, your fans will be sitting in gin mills and lamenting *your* defeats too. No doubt while yet another Floyd Mayweather bout plays on the TV over the bar. ■

Back Issues of

Add to your RING collection by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. Single issues are $5 each. Order by the year and save up to 30%. Listed prices include postage and handling. Supplies are limited. To assure fulfillment order today.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Thomas Hearns—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Annual ratings, Fight, Upset, Round, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

May 1986: Hagler vs. Mugabi: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Bramble-Crawley, Tyson-Ferguson, 10 worst decisions.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new Ring ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Lockridge & Mayweather, Tony Burton, Julio Cesar Chavez, blood.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be ... But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox Lewis, The Ring Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Jan. 1996: King Bruno! A Hero Always ... A Winner At Last. Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Chris Eubank, Eddie Perkins, who's hot/who's not.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

Nov. 1997: Is Mike Tyson Finished? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Camacho preview, Frankie Conley, Hall of Fame, gloves,

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: The Ring's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of The Ring Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

Aug. 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Schmeling, Holyfield-Lewis.

Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed Ring Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

(ALL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH THE DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE)

Dec. 2000: The Hell With Tyson—Tua Is The Man Who Could Beat Lewis. Plus: Mike Tyson, Felix Trinidad, Wladimir Klitschko, Trilla in Manila, U.S. vs. World, Toxey Hall.

Feb. 2001: It's Not Over For Oscar: The Ring's Five-Step Recovery Plan. Plus: Bob Arum, Dingaan Thobela, Hernandez brothers, U.S. Olympic team, future pound-for-pounders.

April 2001: A New Beginning ... A New Middle: Felix Trinidad Is Ready To Conquer Another Division! Plus: Shane Mosley, Lennox Lewis, Paul Andrews, boxing business.

June 2001: Pretty Boy Floyd: Superstar Or Superbrat? Plus: Lewis vs. greats, 2000 Olympians, Henry Hall, rematches we'd like to see.

July 2001 (108-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Plus: Zab Judah, John Ruiz, Andrew Lewis, Mark Johnson, British boxing.

Aug. 2001: Rocking The World! What Rahman's Victory Means To Boxing. Plus: Barrera-Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Mount Whitaker, *Friday Night Fights.*

Sept. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive Ring Interview—Hasim Rahman: "Nobody's Taking My Titles!" Plus: 20 all-time greatest lightweights, Pat Valentino, Hopkins & King, Jones & Arum.

Dec. 2001: The Rock Promises Another Shock! "I'm Gonna Knock Lennox Out Again!" Plus: David Reid, Jones-Gonzalez, McCline-Grant, Jackie Graves, ring deaths.

May 2002 (108-Page Extra): Bernard Hopkins—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Holyfield-Ruiz III, 2000 Olympians, Eric Harding, "Silent" Hairston.

June 2002: Lennox Lewis: I'll End The Tyson "Freak Show!" Plus: Forrest-Mosley, Freitas-Casamayor, De La Hoya & Vargas, Hagler & Leonard.

Aug. 2002: Lewis vs. Tyson: Who Will Win ... And What Happens Next. Plus: Michael Moorer, Jeff Fenech, Charley Parham, Rafael & Juan Manuel Marquez.

Sept. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Vernon Forrest—Next Step In The Master Plan: End Mosley's Career. Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Ricardo Mayorga, 20 greatest lightweights.

Oct. 2002: Tito' Back ... And He's "Going To Make Hopkins Pay!" Plus: Ward-Gatti, Bouie Fisher, controversial scoring, ruining prospects.

Nov. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Monster Mashed! Can A New Tyson Emerge From The Rubble? Plus: The Ring 100, Evander Holyfield, Don King, Billy Joiner, junior welters.

Feb. 2003: The Resurrection Of A Warrior: Cam Evander Holyfield Recapture The Glory Of His Youth? Also: Floyd Mayweather Sr., Nate Campbell, Tom & Peter McNeeley, boxing finances, pound-for-pound.

March 2003 (108-Page Extra): Hamed ... Morales ... Tapia: Barrera Has Punched His Ticket To The Hall Of Fame. Also: Joe Mesi, Ricardo Lopez, Pipino Cuevas, alphabet tales, what's ahead for '03.

May 2003 (108-Page Extra): Ali ... Leonard ... Tyson ... Klitschko? Also: Year-end awards, Chris Byrd, Lupe Pintor, Maxie Rosenbloom.

June 2003: Exclusive! The Ring Grills George Foreman. Also: Kostya Tszyu, Ricardo Mayorga, Diego Corrales, Tommy Loughran.

July 2003 (108-Page Extra): Now What, Roy? How Jones Matches Up Against The Heavyweight Elite. Also: Mike Tyson, Marquez Brothers, Ricardo Williams, Tony Zale.

Aug. 2003: The Ring Unscrambles The Heavyweight Mess. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Scott Harrison, Billy Warren, Latino revolution, cups.

Sept. 2003 (108-Page Extra): Oscar At 30: Forget About Retirement ... He Has Revenge On His Mind. Also: Mayorga-Forrest II preview, James Toney, Barney Ross, HBO, report cards.

Nov. 2003 (108-Page Extra): Healing And Hungry: Vitali Klitschko—Is He The Man To Retire Lewis? Also: Gatti-Ward III, Holyfield-Toney, Dominick Guinn, Lee Roy Murphy, The Ring 100.

April 2004: Antonio Tarver: "It's Not About Roy Jones Anymore." Also: Pacquiao-Barrera, Floyd Mayweather, all punch/no chin, Rinty Monaghan.

June 2004: The Lewis Retirment: Will He Come Back? Also: Scott Pemberton, Jones-Tarver preview, James McGirt, James J. Braddock.

Summer 2004: Squeezed Out: Is There A Superfight For Felix Trinidad? Also: Joe Mesi, Miguel Cotto, Winky Wright, Ceferino Garcia.

Oct. 2004 (100-Page Extra): The Executioner: There's No Escape For De La Hoya! Also: Verno Phillips, Jose Luis Castillo, Felix Sturm, James Toney, Jeff Lacy, one-punch kayos

Fall 2004: Trinidad vs. Mayorga: Comeback Or Calamity. Also: Vitali Klitschko, Marco Antonio Barrera, Juan Diaz, Jimmy Clabby.

Feb. 2005 (100-Page Extra): The Incredible Comeback Of Felix Trinidad—Just The Boost Boxing Needs! Also: Glen Johnson, Klitschko-Williams preview, Kasim Ouma, Tony Lopez, Paul Berlenbach, bodypunching.

Winter 2005: 1980s vs. Today: Comparing The Middleweight Superstars. Also: Roy Jones, Leija-Gatti preview, Terry Downes, comebacks.

April 2005 (100-Page Extra): How Kostya Tszyu Mastered The Sweet Science: The Metamorphosis Of A Near-Perfect Fighter. Also: Barrera-Morales III, Winky Wright, Vivian Harris, 10 greatest title reigns, 10 burning questions.

Spring 2005—Svelter Welter: Moving To 147 Will Tip The Scale In Oscar's Favor. Also: Vitali Klitschko, Glen Johnson, Andre Ward, Johnny Persol.

June 2005 (100-Page Extra): Tito vs. Winky: Is Trinidad Facing Hopkins-Like Danger? Also: Zab Judah, Ricky Hatton, Kassim Ouma, Marcel Thil & Eugene Criqui, all-star report cards.

Summer 2005: Gatti vs. Mayweather: Will This Be The Mismatch "Pretty Boy" Predicts? Also: Erik Morales, Miguel Cotto, Mahyar Monshipour, Pinky Silverberg.

Aug. 2005 (100-Page Extra): *The Contender:* Boxing's Ticket Back To The Mainstream? Also: Jorge Acar, Hopkins vs. Jones, Riddick Bowe, Buster Douglas, The State of the Game.

Oct. 2005 (100-Page Extra): Our Man Hatton—Working-Class Warrior Becomes A World-Class Superstar. Plus: Wright-Trinidad, Corrales-Castillo, Kingsley Ikeke, great career comebacks, featherweights.

Dec. 2005 (100-Page Extra): Jermain Taylor: Can We Call Him The World's Greatest Middleweight? Plus: Corrales-Castillo II forecast, Amir Khan, Barry McGuigan, The Ring 100.

Fall 2005: Jeff "Left Hook" Lacy: Bringing Excitement Back To The Super Middles. Plus: Fernando Vargas, Rahman-Klitschko, Taylor-Hopkins, boxing pitchmen.

Feb. 2006 (100-Page Extra): Castillo-Corrales II: When The Rule-Breakers Win ... It's Time To Reevaluate The System. Plus: Antonio Tarver, Cotto-Torres, Peter-Klitschko, Marco Antonio Barrera, Zahir Raheem, Leavander Johnson, Max Baer.

April 2006 (100-Page Extra): Ricky Hatton: Britain's First Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Jermain Taylor, Calzaghe-Lacy preview, Israel Vazquez, Zsolt Erdei.

June 2006 (100-Page Extra): Who Needs The Heavyweights? Plus: De La Hoya-Mayorga preview, Pacquiao-Morales, Carlos Baldomir, Castillo-Reyes, Alvin Felicilda, Jason Litzau, Turpin brothers.

Aug. 2006 (100-Page Extra): No Gimme For Gatti: Baldomir Has More Than A Fat Chance. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Arce-Alvarez, Mosley-Vargas II preview, Frank Warren, Native American casinos, heavyweights.

Oct. 2006 (100-Page Extra): One Final Fight For Oscar: The Ring Answers The Vital Questions About De La Hoya-Mayweather. Also: Hasim Rahman, Marco Antonio Barrera, 2004 Olympians, Robbie Sims, Cotto-Malignaggi.

Dec. 2006 (100-Page Extra): Taking The World By Force: "Pretty Boy" Floyd Guns For Baldomir. Also: Oleg Maskaev, Roy Jones, Nino-Viloria, Battling Siki, Argentine fighters.

☐ FEB/83	☐ JUN/87	☐ FEB/90	☐ JAN/96	☐ SEP/99	☐ JUN/02	☐ FEB/05
☐ NOV/83	☐ JUL/87	☐ MAR/90	☐ FEB/96	☐ DEC/99	☐ AUG/02	☐ WIN/05
	☐ SEP/87	☐ APR/90	☐ NOV/96	☐ HOL/99	☐ SEP/02	☐ APR/05
☐ JUL/84	☐ NOV/87	☐ MAY/90	**All 3 $14**	**All 10 $37**	☐ OCT/02	☐ SPR/05
☐ OCT/84	☐ DEC/87	☐ JUN/90			☐ NOV/02	☐ JUN/05
	All 5 $22	☐ JUL/90	☐ JUN/97	☐ MAR/00	**All 6 $25**	☐ SUM/05
☐ FEB/85		☐ SEP/90	☐ NOV/97	☐ MAY/00		☐ AUG/05
☐ MAR/85	☐ JAN/88	☐ DEC/90		☐ JUN/00	☐ FEB/03	☐ OCT/05
☐ MAY/85	☐ FEB/88	**All 8 $31**	☐ FEB/98	☐ AUG/00	☐ MAR/03	☐ Dec/05
☐ JUN/85	☐ MAR/88		☐ APR/98	☐ SEP/00	☐ MAY/03	☐ Fall/2005
☐ AUG/85	☐ APR/88	☐ APR/91	☐ JUL/98	☐ OCT/00	☐ JUN/03	**All 8 $37**
☐ OCT/85	☐ MAY/88	☐ JUN/91	☐ AUG/98	☐ DEC/00	☐ JUL/03	
☐ NOV/85	☐ SEP/88	☐ JUL/91	☐ SEP/98	**All 7 $28**	☐ AUG/03	☐ FEB/06
☐ DEC/85	☐ OCT/88	☐ AUG/91	☐ OCT/98		☐ SEP/03	☐ APR/06
All 8 $31	☐ NOV/88	**All 4 $18**	**All 6 $25**	☐ FEB/01	☐ NOV/03	☐ JUN/06
	All 8 $31			☐ APR/01	**All 8 $31**	☐ AUG/06
☐ JAN/86		☐ JUL/92	☐ JAN/99	☐ JUN/01		☐ OCT/06
☐ MAY/86		☐ SEP/92	☐ FEB/99	☐ JUL/01	☐ APR/04	☐ DEC/06
☐ JUN/86	☐ JAN/89	☐ NOV/92	☐ MAR/99	☐ AUG/01	☐ JUN/04	**All 6/$25**
☐ AUG/86	☐ FEB/89	**All 3 $14**	☐ MAY/99	☐ SEP/01	☐ SUM/04	
☐ SEP/86	☐ MAR/89		☐ JUN/99	**All 7 $28**	☐ OCT/04	
☐ DEC/86	☐ MAY/89	☐ FEB/93	☐ JUL/99		☐ FALL/04	
All 6 $25	**All 4 $18**	☐ MAY/93	☐ AUG/99	☐ MAY/02	**All 5 $22**	

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum). Send To:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: __/__ (MO/YR)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

7567/11-06

By Ivan Goldman

Mayweather vs. Mayweather

Most of us have yet to recognize just how frenzied the media coverage will get if Daddy Mayweather keeps his word and works Oscar De La Hoya's corner against Floyd Junior in their May 5 super welter superfight.

Fight fans look forward to a heck of a good matchup, very possibly of historical proportions. But the rest of the world is likely to focus instead on the drama of the Mayweather feud. It won't be as big as the O.J. story, but it will be the closest we've seen in a while.

With Uncle Roger Mayweather out of jail and his suspension by the Nevada commission at an end, he should be working nephew Floyd Mayweather's corner again, making the tale practically biblical. It's a 21st century retelling of Abraham and Isaac and Cain and Abel—father vs. son and brother vs. brother. Everyone understands that, in this sport, working against your own blood is no small matter. Daddy won't be plotting to score runs or get the ball through a hoop. He'll be strategizing to knock his son senseless.

They'll eat up the story of this feud from the Mongolian Steppes to the Argentine Pampas and everywhere in between. Watch for London bookies to take wagers on whether father and son embrace at the end of the bout. Coverage could be so intense *some* of us will wish we had that O.J. story back just to give us some relief.

Of course, one could argue that just because Daddy Floyd said he will stay on as chief trainer and then work the

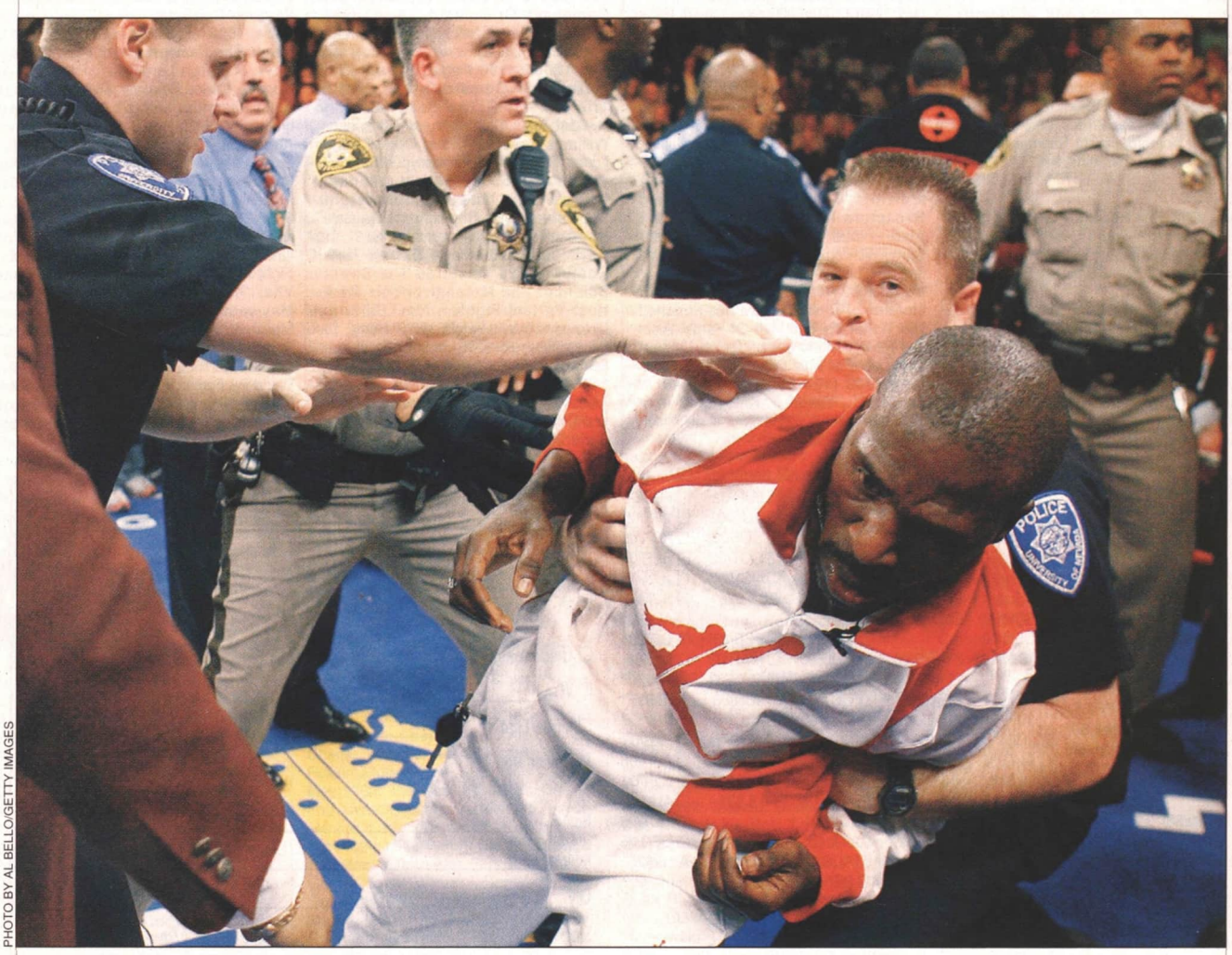


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Uncle Roger should be out of jail in time to train "Pretty Boy"

corner doesn't make it a 100 percent certainty. What people say doesn't always correspond to what they do. Only a day before the match was announced, for example, Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer was trying to convince everyone he had no interest in making the fight. But as Cinco de Mayo moves closer, time constraints make it harder for Floyd Senior to back out and force his cash dispenser of a fighter to seek a replacement.

In the weeks leading up to the contest, Oscar the fighter could even get fed up with the Mayweathers' backstory stealing his personal thunder. But Oscar the promoter knows he will profit enormously. To succeed in the rough world of boxing promotions, the principals need a touch of P.T. Barnum, and Oscar definitely has it. He understood the impact of this family feud long before he said yes to the match. Don't expect the suggested pay-per-view toll to top off at a mere $49.95. Fight fans will probably have to pay extra because the world will bid up the price.

As fight night approaches, camera crews will scramble after the Mayweathers like they were on the trail of a terrorist plot. If they paid half as much attention to the workings of the environment, for example, the Earth would be a better place to breathe. Media correspondents who don't know a left hook from a Lipizzaner stallion will, when they begin their research on the Mayweather clan, find a treasure chest of crime, violence, betrayal, and greed, all overlaid with Freudian overtones.

When TV networks place their expensive gear and correspondents at crowded, possibly unruly scenes, they assign bodyguards to defend them and the turf they stand on. Don't be surprised if there's a rhubarb or two as networks jostle for position at the two training camps and the residences of the major players.

Big Floyd and Little Floyd, who haven't, according to Little Floyd, been on speaking terms since 2000, can be counted on to intensify the rivalry every time they spot a microphone. Papa Floyd in particular has a knack for finding the ugliest way to express a simple thought. The guy is so inflammatory he could burn down a city block just by tossing a cold salad.

At the news conference announcing Oscar's 2001 bout with Arturo Gatti, I watched Floyd Senior singlehandedly turn an amiable scene into a raging conflagration. Lately, he's been contending that Oscar will negate Junior's super speed with superior timing. But when Oscar fights slower fighters, Daddy Floyd claims they have no chance to overcome Oscar's speed, which is what he said (correctly) about Gatti.

INSIDE THE RING: The outcome on fight night boils down to two principal questions: Can Floyd hurt Oscar and can Oscar hit Floyd? Even though Mayweather is the most talented fighter we've seen in years, De La Hoya's size makes him an exceedingly credible opponent. Yes, Baldomir was bigger too, but Baldomir didn't have anything close to De La Hoya's speed, talent, and big-fight experience. Also, Oscar is a better fighter with a better chin than

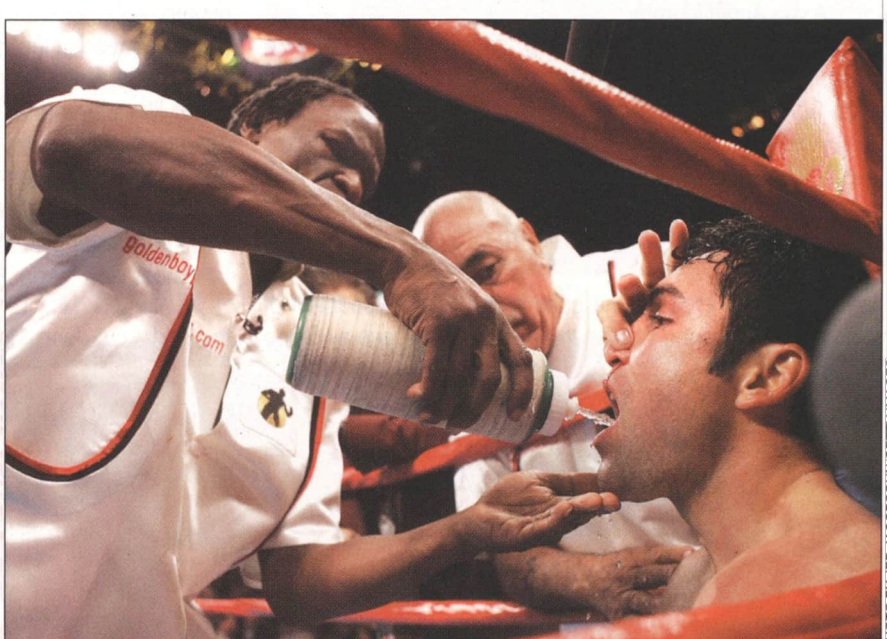


PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

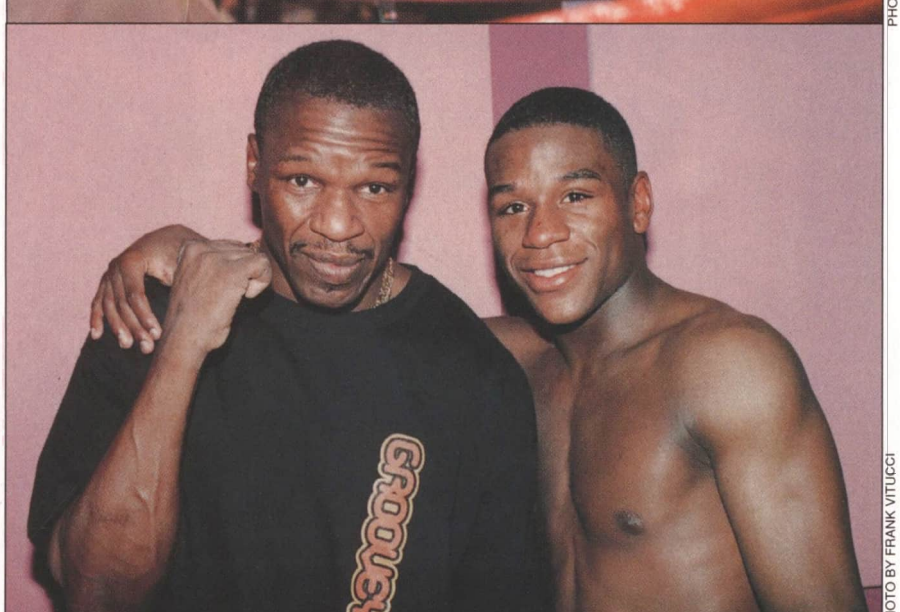


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Big Floyd giving Oscar a drink (top), and back in 1998 with his son (above)

Jose Luis Castillo, who won his first match with Mayweather but was robbed by the officials. So anyone who says "The Golden Boy" has no chance against "Pretty Boy" is wrong. I think.

Even if Oscar gets to fight his fight, he won't necessarily win, because Mayweather can be formidable in the toe-to-toe department. Ask Diego Corrales. But when Pretty Boy gets in the ring, two invisible creatures whisper to him. One is a dancer, the other a warrior. Come fight night, I'm not sure even he knows which one he'll obey.

Mayweather seems to honestly believe that if he's victorious, he will go down in history as one of the greats, possibly even greater than Sugar Ray Robinson. This proves that when you buy yourself a big entourage and travel around with a private cheering section, your sense of reality can get twisted around. Being a fine soldier doesn't automatically make you Audie Murphy.

Oscar, a much bigger celebrity than Mayweather, has a better understanding of how the world works. He remembers that when he went in there against Shane Mosley, Bernard Hopkins, Felix Trinidad, and the rest of the Murderer's Row he's faced down, his entourage wasn't in there with him.

I haven't picked a winner yet. Let me chew on it for a while.

MAGOO 1: This one goes to me. Marc Goodstein of Los Angeles was the first fan to point out that I gave a Magoo in an earlier column to the Nevada commission for choosing the judges who made the rotten decision for Peter at James Toney-Samuel Peter I. But the bout was actually in California. *Ouch.*

The mistake was even worse than Goodstein knew, because *I was at the fight.* I guess I'm so used to seeing big fights in Nevada, I can't believe they're in California even when I'm in California myself. But I have a better excuse than that. It's called being stupid. I sincerely apologize to the great state of Nevada and every reader who actually trusted I knew what I was doing. Try not to make that mistake again.

My own goof was so deplorable, I wanted to make my Magoo stand alone, but the following events were just too flagrant to skip over.

MAGOO 2: World-beater Paul Williams had last-minute replacement Santos Pakau bleeding from so many facial orifices he looked like a Dick Cheney hunting companion. Referee Joe Cortez and Pakau's clueless corner acted like chipmunks watching from a nearby rock. Can anyone explain in what way this so-called welterweight match on the Baldomir-Mayweather undercard was a sporting event? Cortez, who finally stopped it in round six, was very, very late.

MAGOO 3: Texas referee Laurence Cole, who told the badly cut Juan Manuel Marquez he was ahead on the

PHOTO BY DONALD MIRALLE/GETTY IMAGES

De La Hoya wants to hook Mayweather the way he did Mayorga

scorecards against Jimrex Jaca, had to be just guessing. Marquez understands very little English anyway, a point that sailed over Cole's skull along with his judgment.

MAGOO 4: On the same Pacquiao-Morales undercard, heavy-fisted Ricardo Torres' junior welterweight victory over Mike Arnaoutis was scored a preposterous 116-111 by Adelaide Byrd. Torres was dropped hard in round eight. Give Arnaoutis his 10-8 round there, and you have to come up with nine rounds for Torres to account for Byrd's score. I doubt Torres' own mother could have found him nine rounds, but fortunately for him, his mother's score wasn't official. Byrd's was. Harry Davis saw it 114-113 Torres and Jerry Roth 114-113 Arnaoutis, both acceptable tallies.

MAGOO 5: When Michael Buffer announced a majority draw in the Omar Nino-Brian Viloria junior flyweight tussle, Nino and his people were ecstatic and Team Viloria had the look of people who'd just seen their home carried away in a flood. That told you all you need to know about the accuracy of the scoring. There were some close rounds, sure, but Viloria's two knockdowns should easily have put him over the top. Not according to the crazed pencils of judges Carol Castellano and Samuel Conde, who scored the match a draw and Nevadan Dave Moretti who gave it to Nino by a shocking 115-112. The fans' repeated shouts about bulls' fecal matter showed at least they knew the score.

MAGOO 6: Too often judges look at the fighters' records instead of the fight, which apparently was the case at a *ShoBox* card in Santa Ynez, California. David Mendoza, Max DeLuca, and Ray Balewicz all saw it a sloppy 79-71 for undefeated junior welter Timothy Bradley over journeyman Jaime Rangel, who fought his heart out and was robbed, just as commentators Nick Charles and Steve Farhood called it.

The whole *ShoBox* team deserves credit for finding so many excellent, competitive matches, even when they don't look that way on paper.

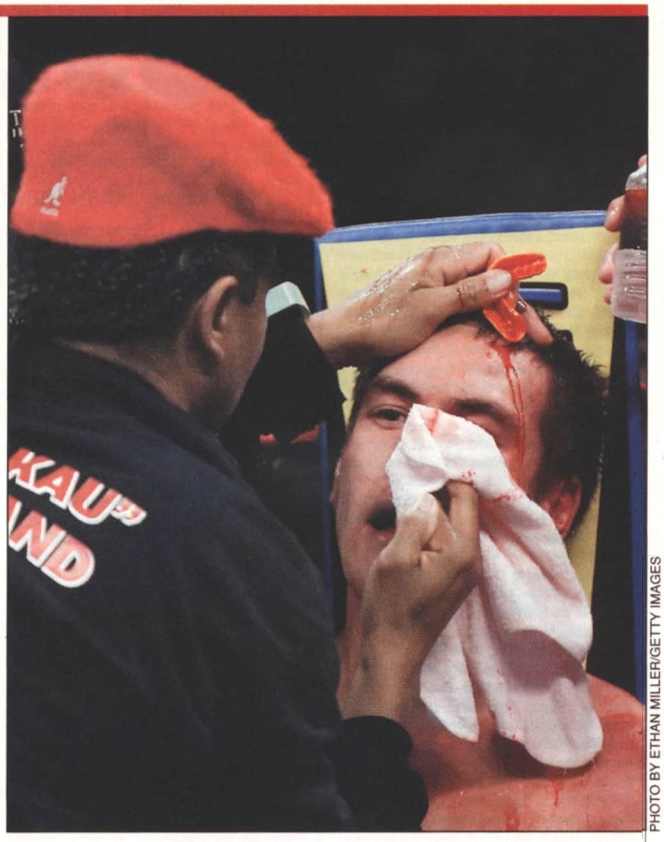


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

What was Pakau's corner thinking?

PHOTO BY GABRIEL BOUYS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

■ *Viloria looked confident before the decision was announced*

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine,* the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

July 1984: Donald Curry: "I'm Better Under Pressure." Color Pinup: Gerrie Coetzee. Interview: Curry. Also: Pipino Cuevas, John Mugabi, Bill Costello, M. Spinks-Davis.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: *KO* Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Oct. 1985: Still Champ After All These Years: Larry Holmes—A Legend Continues To Grow. Interview: Mark Breland. Also: Michael Spinks, Milton McCrory, Wilfredo Gomez.

Nov. 1985: McGuigan! The Pluck Of The Irish. Also: Julio Cesar Chavez, Thomas-Weaver, Donald Curry, featherweights.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

Feb. 1986: King Michael: How Long Will He Rule The Heavyweights? Also: Barry McGuigan, Shawn O'Sullivan, Spinks-Holmes, *Rocky IV,* world's best fighter poll.

Oct. 1986: They're Back!!! The Cooney Circus Returns. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Jimmy Paul, Mike Tyson, Donald Curry.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Also: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

June 1987: New WBA Welterweight Champion Mark Breland: He's Got A Lot To Smile About. Interview: Marvin Hagler. Color Pinup: Greg Haugen. Also: Michael Olajide, Carlos Monzon.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King—But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: *KO's* Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Dec. 1988: Sugar Ray's Comeback: Why? Color Pinup: Simon Brown. Interview: Kevin Rooney. Also: Michael Nunn, best fighter poll, welterweight wars.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Aug. 1989: Special 100th Issue. Color Pinup: Hagler vs. Hearns. Also: The *KO* Years, 50 most influential people, '80s ratings, best of *KO* Interview, year-by-year review, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: *KO* Interview—Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: *KO* Interview—Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, best fighter poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive *KO* Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, J.C. Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield—The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: *KO* Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

Feb. 1993: Strictly Business: George Foreman Fights For The Love Of It—The Money! Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: George Benton. Also: Tracy Spann, Oba Carr, greatest eras.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The *KO* Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Also: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Also: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Also: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Also: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: *KO's* 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Also: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Also: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Also: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Also: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Also: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real

Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Also: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Also: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Also: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Also: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

Dec. 1998: Winning Fights Is Easier Than Winning Fans: Why Can't We Appreciate Roy Jones? Color Pinup: Tim Austin. Interview: Michael Grant. Also: Christy Martin, Ali Reform Act, one-hit wonders.

Holiday 1998: Toe-To-Toe With The Top 10: Where Does Tyson Fit In? Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Inteview: Larry Hazzard. Also: Evander Holyfield, junior middleweights.

Jan. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Oscar Eliminates Chavez ... Now The Real Fights Begin! Color Pinup: Yory Boy Campas. Interview: William Joppy. Also: Mark Johnson, U.S.A. vs. the world.

Feb. 1999: Holyfield & Lewis: Did They Hurt Themselves Before They Could Hurt Each Other? Color Pinup: Andrew Golota. Interview: Angel Manfredy. Also: Mismatches, Bobby Czyz on watching fights.

March 1999: Exposed! Is Hamed Really Hector Camacho In Disguise? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Joe Frazier. Also: Zab Judah, Vuyani Bungu, Frankie Randall.

May 1999: The Tyson Of Old ... Or Just An Old Tyson? Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Fernando Vargas. Also: Antonio Diaz, Sumya Anani, standing eight-count.

June 1999: Will Tyson's Jail Time Be A Career Killer? Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Floyd Mayweather. Also: Roy Jones, 1999 Hall of Fame.

July 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: The Fight The Public Demands ... But Is It Going To Happen? Color Pinup: David Tua. Interview: Tommy Brooks. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Tony Marshall, best of the century.

Aug. 1999: Lewis vs. Holyfield II: Should We Expect Anything Different Next Time? Color Pinup: Fernando Vargas. Interview: David Reid. Also: Ibeabuchi-Byrd, Melissa Salamone.

Sept. 1999: Mayweather vs. Mosley: Who's The Future Of Boxing? Color Pinup: James Page. Interview: J Russell Peltz. Also: Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Angel Manfredy.

Oct. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Interview: Jake LaMotta. Also: Tony Ayala, Erik Morales, Junior Jones.

Nov. 1999: De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: "It's Gonna Come Down To Who The Hell Wants It Most!" Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Also: Roy Jones, Sugar Shane Mosley, Vassily Jirov.

Dec. 1999: David Reid & Fernando Vargas: Olympic Teammates On A Collision Course! Color Pinup: Zab Judah. Interview: Ike Ibeabuchi. Also: Vitali Klitschko, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson.

Holiday 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Lewis-Holyfield II: Why We Demand A Knockout! Color Pinup: Sharmba Mitchell. Interview: Paulie Ayala. Also: James Toney, James Page & Terronn Millett, decade review.

Jan. 2000: Fool's Gold? Trinidad May Have Tarnished Oscar's Image Forever! Color Pinup: Paulie Ayala. Interview: Tony Ayala Jr. Also: David Reid, Johnny Nelson.

Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Also: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

May 2000: Michael Grant vs. Lennox Lewis—25 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Paul Spadafora. Interview: Dan Goossen. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Johnny Tapia, southpaws.

June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitali Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Also: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

Aug. 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns." Color Pinup: Steve Johnston. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.

Sept. 2000: Now Vargas Is Ready For Trinidad & De La Hoya. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Trinidad vs. all-time greats, Thomas Hearns, common sense vs. cowardice.

Oct. 2000 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Floyd Mayweather. Interview: Stevie Johnston. Also: Clifford Etienne, over-hyped heavyweights.

Nov. 2000: Sugar Rush! Mosley Achieves Superstardom At Oscar's Expense. Color Pinup: Lennox Lewis. Interview: Jay Larkin. Also: David Tua, Oleg Maskaev, Ben Tackie.

Dec. 2000: Mike Tyson vs. Lennox Lewis: 15 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Interview: Frank Maloney. Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Bronco McKart, our heroes' heroes.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2001]

Feb. 2001: Fernando Vargas' Internal Battle: If He Can't Win It, He Can't Beat Trinidad. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Also: Derrick Gainer, Roy Jones, Naseem Hamed.

April 2001: Lewis Is Too Much For Tua ... But Could Tyson Do Any Better? Interview: Max Kellerman. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Wladimir Klitschko.

June 2001: Trinidad-Jones: Superfight Or Mismatch? Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Mayweather-Corrales, Paul Ingle, Davey Hilton, Tyson's relationship with Vargas, Judah, and Mayweather.

Aug. 2001: Sugar Shane Mosley: Too Sweet For The Bad Boy Era? Interview: Richard Steele. Also: Evander Holyfield, Roy Jones, Jesus Chavez.

Oct. 2001: Tito Power—From Fans To Foes ... Everyone's Feeling It! Interview: Lou DiBella. Also: Hasim Rahman, Vargas-Rivera, F.I.S.T.

Dec. 2001: Laila Ali: The Fighter, The Sex Symbol ... The Future Of Women's Boxing? Interview: Laila Ali. Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Tim Austin, Manny Pacquiao, Hector Camacho Jr.

Feb. 2002: Bernard Hopkins: "I Am The American Dream. I Am The American Story." Interview: Wladimir Klitschko. Also: Omar Sheika, Vernon Forrest, Juan Lazcano.

April 2002: After Hitting Rock Bottom ... Lennox Is Back On The Path To Greatness. Interview: Duva Boxing. Also: Zab Judah, Mike Tyson, Thomas Tate.

June 2002: Tyson vs. Lewis: 10-Page Preview & Analysis. Interview: Jameel McCline. Also: *Ali* movie, Dorin vs. Balbi & Ward vs. Leija.

Aug. 2002: Still Crazy After All These Years: Should Mike Tyson Be Allowed To Fight? Interview: Kostya Tszyu. Also: Barrera-Morales II preview, Ayala-Adams, Ricky Hatton.

Oct. 2002: Vernon Forrest vs. Shane Mosley: Two Careers On The Line! Interview: Fernando Vargas. Also: Mayweather-Castillo, Hopkins vs. all-time greats, heavyweight scrap heap.

Dec. 2002: Wladimir Klitschko: Would He Be Too Much For Lennox? Interview: Joe Calzaghe. Also: Barrera-Morales II, Evander Holyfield, Freddie Roach.

Winter 2002: A Realistic Look At Tyson's Comeback: He Can't Make History, But He Can Make Millions. Interview: Micky Ward. Also: Antonio Tarver, Antwun Echols, Acelino Freitas.

March 2003: Oscar De La Hoya—The War That Rages Within. Interview: Klitschko brothers. Also: Kassim Ouma, Eric Morel, holiday gifts.

May 2003: Danger Zone! Will Roy Jones Be Doomed By His Heavyweight Ego? Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Gatti-Ward II, Floyd Mayweather, Erik Morales.

July 2003: Boxing's Biggest X-Factor: Can Hopkins Recover From His Self-Inflicted Wounds? Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Kostya Tszyu, DaVarryl Williamson, 10 best defensive fighters.

Sept. 2003: Sugar Roy? How Jones Rates With The All-Time Greats. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Corrie Sanders, Jean-Marc Mormeck, Kermit Cintron.

Nov. 2003: De La Hoya-Mosley II: Will Three Years And Seven Pounds Make A Difference? Interview: James Toney. Also: Michael Watson, Erik Morales, Jones-Holyfield head-to-head.

Winter 2003: *KO* Interview Arturo Gatti: "Kostya Tszyu Needs Me More Than I Need Him." Also: Mayorga-Forrest II, Zab Judah, Corrales-Casamayor preview, Joe Calzaghe.

Feb. 2004: Shane Mosley: A Second Chance At Superstardom. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Also: Laila Ali, Scott LeDoux, retirement.

April 2004: Human After All: Tarver Makes Jones Turn To Tyson. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Sharmba Mitchell, Toney-McCline preview, trash-talking.

June 2004: What Could Tyson Do To Jones? Interview: Antonio Tarver. Also: Bernard Hopkins, Spinks-Mayorga.

Oct. 2004: Dr. Klitschko: The Perfect Band-Aid For The Heavyweight Division. Interview: Diego Corrales. Also: Monte Barrett, Cory Spinks, Vinny Paz & Sven Ottke.

Feb. 2005: Exclusive KO Interview—Manny Pacquiao. Also: Kostya Tszyu, Manning Galloway, quitting, perfect heavyweight.

June 2005: Heavyweight Champ Vitali Klitschko: He's A Lot Better Than You Think! Interview: John Ruiz & Norman Stone. Also: Glen Johnson, 2004 in review.

Oct. 2005: El Feroz With A Twist: Re-tooled Vargas Gets Defensive. Interview: Zab Judah. Also: Marco Antonio Barrera, Jean-Marc Mormeck, Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., *KO* at 25.

Feb. 2006: Can Hip Hop Revitalize Boxing? Interview: Erik Morales. Also: Zab Judah, Ricardo Mayorga, Arturo Gatti, Luis Collazo, Roman Karmazin.

Volume I, 2006 (KO Presents Boxing 2006): Middleweight Champ Jermain Taylor—Is The Best Yet To Come? Also: Ricky Hatton, Mosley-Vargas preview, Floyd Mayweather, Juan Manuel & Rafael Marquez, Joan Guzman, Steve Cunningham, Liston & Louis, 20 greatest Mexicans.

Volume 2, 2006 (KO Presents Boxing 2006): Pay-Per-View Showdown! Also: Cotto-Malignaggi preview, Hopkins vs. Tarver preview, Rahman-Toney, Jhonny Gonzalez, John Duddy, Castillo-Corrales III preview, Peter Manfredo, Jeff Lacy, Arthur Abraham, 20 greatest Brits.

☐ JUN/83	☐ AUG/88	☐ JUN/92	☐ HOL/98	☐ AUG/01
☐ AUG/83	☐ SEP/88	☐ JUL/92	☐ JAN/99	☐ OCT/01
☐ OCT/83	☐ OCT/88	☐ AUG/92	☐ FEB/99	☐ DEC/01
☐ JUL/84	☐ DEC/88	☐ SEP/92	☐ MAR/99	☐ FEB/02
☐ AUG/84	☐ JAN/89	☐ OCT/92	☐ MAY/99	☐ APR/02
☐ OCT/84	☐ AUG/89	☐ NOV/92	☐ JUN/99	☐ JUN/02
☐ NOV/84	☐ SEP/89	☐ DEC/92	☐ JUL/99	☐ AUG/02
☐ FEB/85	☐ FEB/90	☐ JAN/93	☐ AUG/99	☐ OCT/02
☐ MAR/85	☐ JUN/90	☐ FEB/93	☐ SEP/99	☐ DEC/02
☐ MAY/85	☐ JUL/90	☐ MAR/93	☐ OCT/99	☐ WIN/02
☐ JUL/85	☐ AUG/90	☐ MAY/93	☐ NOV/99	☐ MAR/03
☐ AUG/85	☐ SEP/90	☐ JUN/95	☐ DEC/99	☐ MAY/03
☐ OCT/85	☐ OCT/90	☐ SEP/96	☐ HOL/99	☐ JUL/03
☐ NOV/85	☐ NOV/90	☐ NOV/96	☐ JAN/00	☐ SEP/03
☐ DEC/85	☐ DEC/90	☐ DEC/96	☐ FEB/00	☐ NOV/03
☐ JAN/86	☐ JAN/91	☐ JAN/97	☐ MAR/00	☐ WIN/03
☐ FEB/86	☐ FEB/91	☐ AUG/97	☐ MAY/00	☐ FEB/04
☐ OCT/86	☐ MAY/91	☐ HOL/97	☐ JUN/00	☐ APR/04
☐ DEC/86	☐ JUN/91	☐ JAN/98	☐ JUL/00	☐ JUN/04
☐ FEB/87	☐ JUL/91	☐ FEB/98	☐ AUG/00	☐ OCT/04
☐ JUN/87	☐ AUG/91	☐ MAR/98	☐ SEP/00	☐ FEB/05
☐ OCT/87	☐ SEP/91	☐ MAY/98	☐ OCT/00	☐ JUN/05
☐ NOV/87	☐ OCT/91	☐ JUN/98	☐ NOV/00	☐ OCT/05
☐ DEC/87	☐ DEC/91	☐ AUG/98	☐ DEC/00	☐ FEB/06
☐ JAN/88	☐ JAN/92	☐ SEP/98	☐ FEB/01	☐ VOL 1/06
☐ FEB/88	☐ MAR/92	☐ NOV/98	☐ APR/01	☐ VOL 2/06
☐ JUL/88	☐ MAY/92	☐ DEC/98	☐ JUN/01	

KO MAGAZINE

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____
as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt.** _____

_____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery
In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

7481/05-06

THE RING FORMS RATINGS ADVISORY PANEL

By Nigel Collins

As a rapidly increasing number of fans and much of the boxing industry turns to THE RING for honest, accurate ratings, free of politics, we have created a Ratings Advisory Panel to help make THE RING Ratings even better.

Before delving into how the Panel works, it's worth reiterating that THE RING pioneered the concept of ranking boxers in 1928, six years after the magazine was first published. As much as we take them for granted today, prior to THE RING's innovation, the concept of rating boxers in their individual weight classes was unheard of. Until then, there were just a handful of champions and a bunch of other guys.

Since THE RING introduced the idea almost 80 years ago, there have been so many sanctioning organizations, publications, and (now) websites coming up with their own ratings, it's tough to find a pug who isn't ranked somewhere by somebody or another. Consequently, the term "contender" has lost a lot of its punch.

This problem is directly connected to the proliferation of

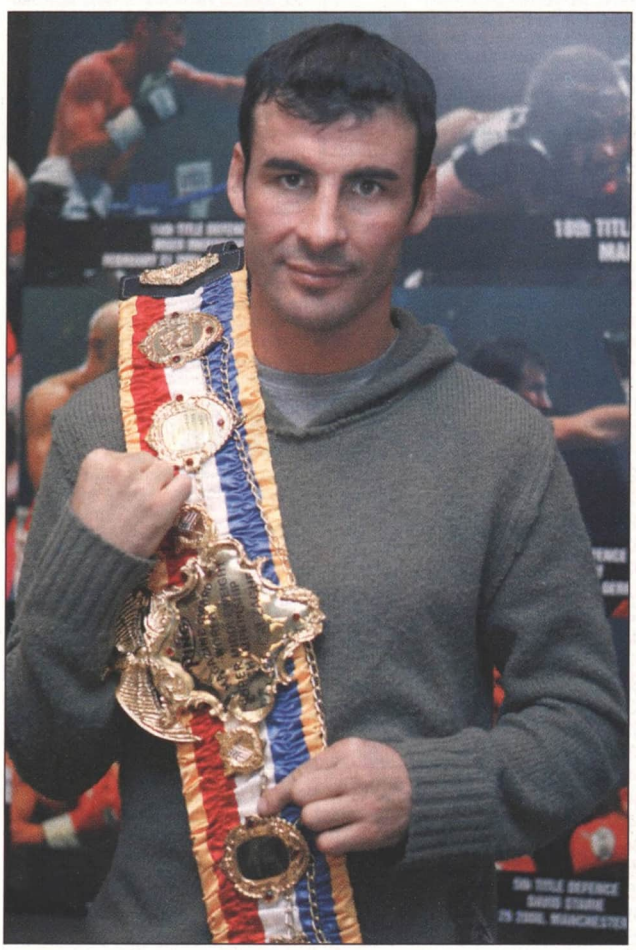


PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

Super middleweight Joe Calzaghe and junior featherweight Israel Vazquez are two current Ring champions who won their belts via box-offs with other contenders.

THE RING'S
RATINGS ADVISORY PANEL

The core group of in-house participants—Publisher Stu Saks, Editor-in-Chief Nigel Collins, Managing Editor Joe Santoliquito, Contributing Editor Eric Raskin, Senior Writer William Dettloff—remains unchanged. The new Panel members are listed below in alphabetical order, followed by their affiliations.

Carlos Arias	*Orange County Register*
Eric Armit	*British Boxing Yearbook*
Nick Charles	Showtime
Brian Doogan	London *Sunday Times*
Coyote Duran	doghouseboxing.com
Margaret Goodman, M.D.	secondsout.com
Tim Graham	*Buffalo News*/President of the Boxing Writers Association of America
Steve Farhood	Showtime
Doug Fischer	maxboxing.com
Jack Hirsch	*Boxing News*
Michael Hirsley	*Chicago Tribune*
Keith Idec	*Herald News of New Jersey*
Carlos Irusta	*El Grafico*
Steve Kim	maxboxing.com
Ted Lerner	*The Ring*
Marc Lichtenfeld	*Through The Ropes*
Jessi Losado	Telemundo
Scott Mallon	thesweetscience.com
Rich Marotta	FSN-TV, KFI/KLAC Radio
David Mayo	*Grand Rapids Press*
Barry McGuigan	ITV
Bernard Osuna	Telefutura
Tony Paige	WFAN Radio
Bob Pappa	Versus
Vittorio Parisi	nonsoleboxe.it
Cliff Rold	ringtalk.com
Rick Scharmberg	fightnews.com
Don Steinberg	*The Philadelphia Inquirer*
Joe Tessitore	ESPN
Calvin Watkins	*Dallas Morning News*
John Whistler	*San Antonio Express News*
Phil Woolever	*Boxing Digest*
Kurt Woltheimer	fightnews.com

so-called "world" titles, which prompted THE RING to launch its current championship policy in 2002 in an attempt to restore credibility to championship boxing. Part of that policy concerns the filling of world title vacancies, which is directly linked to the magazine's international ratings.

According to the criteria listed on the ratings page of every issue, championship vacancies can be filled by winning a box-off between THE RING's number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain circumstances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders. This method has proved successful in crowning a number of new champions, including, among the current crop, cruiserweight O'Neill Bell, super middleweight Joe Calzaghe, junior featherweight Israel Vazquez, and junior flyweight Hugo Cazares.

Our ratings have always been extremely important to THE RING, but now that they play an integral role in the filling of championship vacancies, they take on an even greater significance. It is because of this that we decided to form the Advisory Panel.

It is important to understand that this is not a ballot-type situation, where Panel members vote on the ratings. Theirs is, as the name indicates, an advisory role. The final responsibility for the ratings has always been, and will continue to be that of THE RING.

Actually, THE RING has never relied exclusively on its editorial staff when compiling the ratings on a monthly basis in the print edition, and weekly on thering-online.com. We have always reached out for advice, eager to consider the knowledge and judgment of expert observers. But until recently, however, it has been on an informal basis. We have now formalized the process, enlarged the pool of consultants, and made their names public *(see sidebar)*. The composition of the Panel may change for time to time, and if and when it does, the changes will be noted both in THE RING and on thering-online.com

The Panel was selected from the print and electronic media, including the Internet. Members hale from four continents—North America, South America, Europe, Asia—and are invited to e-mail their suggestions to THE RING whenever they have something to contribute.

You will notice that all but one of the TV networks that regularly televise boxing—ESPN, Showtime, Versus, Fox Sport Net, Telemundo, Telefutura, ITV—are represented. Several members of the HBO broadcast team—Jim Lampley, Larry Merchant, Max Kellerman—were invited to participate, but declined.

No boxing rankings are perfect, and from time to time, THE RING has made mistakes by missing a result, being unaware that a boxer has retired or moved from one division to the next, or simply over- or underestimated a fighter. But thanks to the help of the Advisory Panel, these lapses will hopefully be reduced to an absolute minimum.

Like THE RING Championship Policy, the Ratings Advisory Panel is another step toward our goal of restoring public confidence in the Sweet Science and elevating it once again to the pinnacle of the sports world. ■

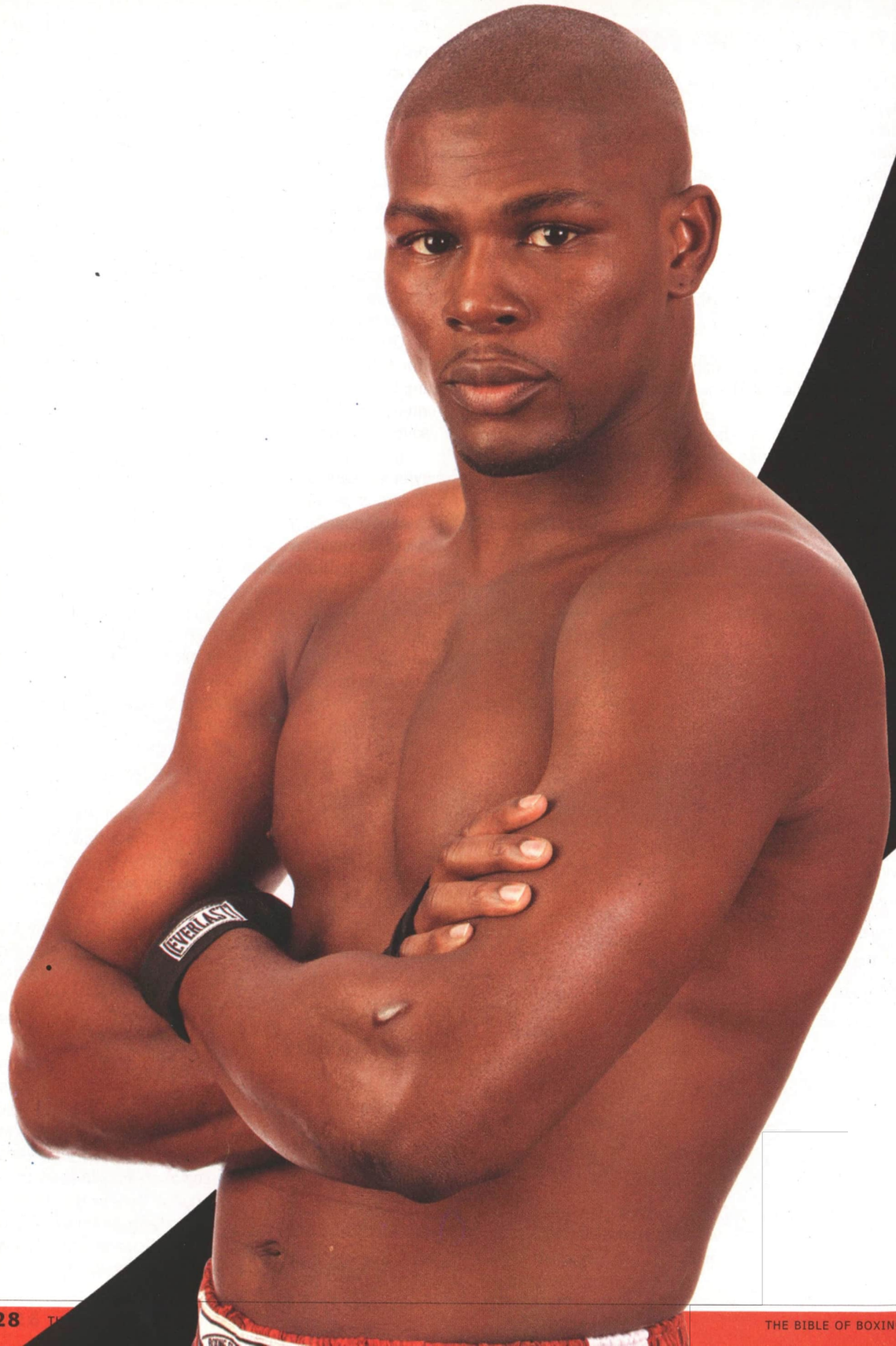
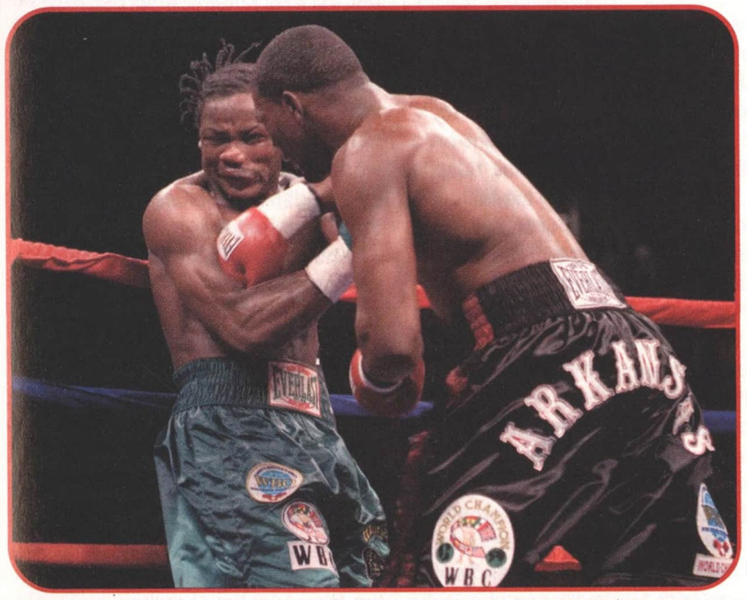


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

CAN TAYLOR *Become A* SUPERSTAR?

Knockout Percentage Is *Jermain* To The Debate



Anxious to score his first knockout since February 2005, Taylor went after Ouma early in their middleweight title fight. But despite his efforts, Taylor failed to even drop his challenger and ended up winning a unanimous but ragged decision.

By David Mayo

PHOTOS BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

To say a man cannot rule the middleweight division with less-than-pristine technique would ignore history. Stanley Ketchel was an overwhelming whirlwind. Tony Zale and Rocky Graziano didn't get famous together by hooking off the jab. Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns pretty much

Despite being a smaller man, Ouma, the former IBF junior middleweight titleholder, kept going after Taylor. Things might have turned out differently if the Ugandan had a harder punch.

dispensed the jab altogether for their eight minutes.

But while all-angles Harry Greb was respectfully dubbed "The Human Windmill," today's middleweight champion is positively Sancho Panza-esque in his flailing imitation of chasing windmills, and not finding much support for the unsightly effort.

To the point, the world wants to know what Jermain Taylor did with Jermain Taylor.

Sure, Taylor is still the man at 160 pounds. He might even be in for a long and healthy reign, considering whom he beat to get there, the short list of willing challengers, and his personal will and physical strength.

But Taylor hasn't had a knockout in two years, which might not seem such an issue if it weren't so important to his bottom line, and if he didn't appear so utterly baffled at how to get one. The champion from Arkansas returned home December 9 to fight Kassim Ouma in North Little Rock, and while Taylor won the fight on a clear-cut unanimous decision despite the hometown pressure, his technical difficulties left all sorts of snowy questions about his career picture.

If not for the notable realities that Taylor remains unbeaten, and that he added Ouma to a title-fight resume already sporting one Winky Wright and a pair of Bernard Hopkinses, the champion's lack of style in his most recent fight would have the manager of every top-10 middleweight speed-dialing promoter Lou DiBella hourly.

That's because any fear Taylor induces with his heart and physicality is tempered, at the very top of the middleweight food chain, by his boorish amateurism. The flaws bubble up every fight, which is why he swung and missed for a good part of 24 rounds with Hopkins, and why he was left a one-eyed fighter against Wright before the challenger backed his way into a draw—and out of the world middleweight championship—by maddeningly refusing to punch in the 12th round.

And, in the Ouma fight, well, let's just say that as right-handed windups throughout sports history go, Taylor's wild heaves were only slightly less pronounced than pitcher Juan Marichal's. All Taylor lacked in duplicating the 1960s Baseball Hall of Famer was the high leg kick, which he could have borrowed from Emanuel Augustus, who finally abandoned those shenanigans for an undercard victory that could propel the mercurial junior welterweight into his own title shot.

But back to Taylor, whose jab was

Bombs away. After expending so much energy in a failed attempt to stop Ouma in the early rounds, Taylor began swinging wildly, missing a large percentage of his haymakers.

less mystery than myth. He did reduce Ouma's perpetual-punching persona by almost half, yet still got backed up in his second consecutive fight against a former 154-pound titleholder.

And the greatest melodrama in his 48 championship rounds has involved reading the scorecards, with his first win over Hopkins hotly disputed, his second not so much, his draw with Wright a fortunate title-saving experience, and one judge scoring the Ouma fight surprisingly close (115-113 by Sergio Silvi, compared to Tom Kaczmarek's 117-111, and Jack Woodburn's 118-110).

Taylor was outspoken in his desire to end his knockout drought against Ouma. Instead, Arkansas was left with a lackluster fight, and boxing was left to question whether The Next Big Thing instead might toil for years behind not only the ultra-chic level of fellow Americans Oscar De La Hoya and Floyd Mayweather, but also behind such appealing international stars as Manny Pacquiao and Wladimir Klitschko.

Taylor certainly can't match their marketability, save in his home region. He is uniquely beloved in Arkansas, and fought Wright just across the Mississippi River, in Memphis—and the third man in the ring for both fights said the promotional pressure on Taylor was palpable both times, particularly against Ouma.

"The hardest place for a fighter to fight is his hometown," referee Frank Garza said, "and with Jermain Taylor, you can multiply that by four or five. He is the franchise for the whole city of Little Rock. The weight on his shoulders had to be tremendous.

"Fortunately for Jermain Taylor, he's one of the strongest boxers who's out there today. No one has seen his potential yet, because he's been victorious on sheer strength alone. He's a very unpolished diamond. He has all the tools, and I know he has the knowledge, because you can't be around Emanuel Steward that much and not have the knowledge. But because of all the pressure, when the fight starts, his physical strength comes out, and everything he learns gets tossed to the wayside. If it all comes together, I think we're looking at a fighter who's going to be champion for a very long time."

That's the big if, and the one Taylor must erase to convince the boxing public it hasn't vastly overrated his ability to break through as a crossover star.

Taylor's Madison Avenue appeal is undeniable. The milk smile, the Everlast advertisements on the back covers of the major boxing magazines, all came easily to the fighter, before he ever won the middleweight championship. But to what extent endearing becomes enduring is Taylor's burden to bear inside the ring, and while three of his title bouts have been against two of the finest fighters of his era, Hopkins and Wright, a hardcore detractor could make a case that he didn't win any of the three. And against Ouma, Taylor fought through his own blood after an accidental headbutt in the fifth round sliced him just over and outside the left eye, and found himself steadily pursued by the smaller man despite persistently whacking Ouma with powershots.

Ouma, 25-3-1 (15), the Ugandan defector fighting out of West Palm Beach, Florida, held up Taylor's cut as judge-for-yourself proof of injustice. While one could argue Ouma gained more career equity in defeat than Taylor did in victory, his claim of hometown robbery fell on unsympathetic ears outside Uganda.

Ouma also dissed Taylor's power, saying, "My grandmother punches harder," which wasn't very popular in

Down the stretch Ouma had the champion backing up. Taylor's trainer, Emanuel Steward, thinks that the pressure of fighting in front of his hometown fans adversely affected his pupil and that better performances are ahead.

Little Rock, but raised brows among those suspicious why the 26-0-1 Taylor hasn't added to his 17 knockouts since dispatching Daniel Edouard in three rounds in February 2005, on the undercard of Hopkins-Howard Eastman, five months before Taylor-Hopkins I.

One obvious answer is Taylor's quality of opposition. Neither Hopkins nor Wright ever has been stopped. Ouma got caught cold and stopped in the first round of a 1999 fight against Agustin Silva, but hasn't been stopped since.

Still, Taylor's overanxious flailing in the early rounds against Ouma left him with little in reserve in the later rounds, when a knockout became a distant dream. And because the WBC's open scoring experiment took away all mystery, with the announcement that Taylor was pitching a shutout through four rounds on all cards, and through eight rounds on two of three cards, the subconscious tendency to run out the clock had to enter the equation.

Taylor, to his credit, knows his faults. He changed head trainers, from Pat Burns to Emanuel Steward, in a search for refinement before the draw with Wright.

But when the Ouma fight began, the overanxious pursuit of a knockout, overriding urge to get back on track after a draw, and overarching pressure of his first hometown title fight, all conspired to send Taylor into wild-swinging mass of ineffective fighting emotion, against his second consecutive left-handed challenger.

Even as Taylor piled up the rounds, he may have lost a bit of ground in the fight for hearts and minds. Boxing pursues, pays, and uses up its superstars. It still is trying to figure out when, and if, Taylor will fit that description.

"I went in there looking for a knockout, and you're not supposed to go looking for a knockout in boxing. It's supposed to come to you," Taylor said. "I made some mistakes. I went in against the best guy out there, because the little man fought like the champion he is, and I tried to take his head off. He's too good a fighter for that. I threw some wild shots and punched myself out some early in the fight. But I learned from it."

How Taylor implements the lesson holds his career key, because Steward's addition to the corner in April 2006 came too late to implement many changes before the draw with Wright two months later, and Steward said the hometown title fight against Ouma created an entirely new level of

distractions. Taylor's next fight should be more reflective of their year together, Steward said.

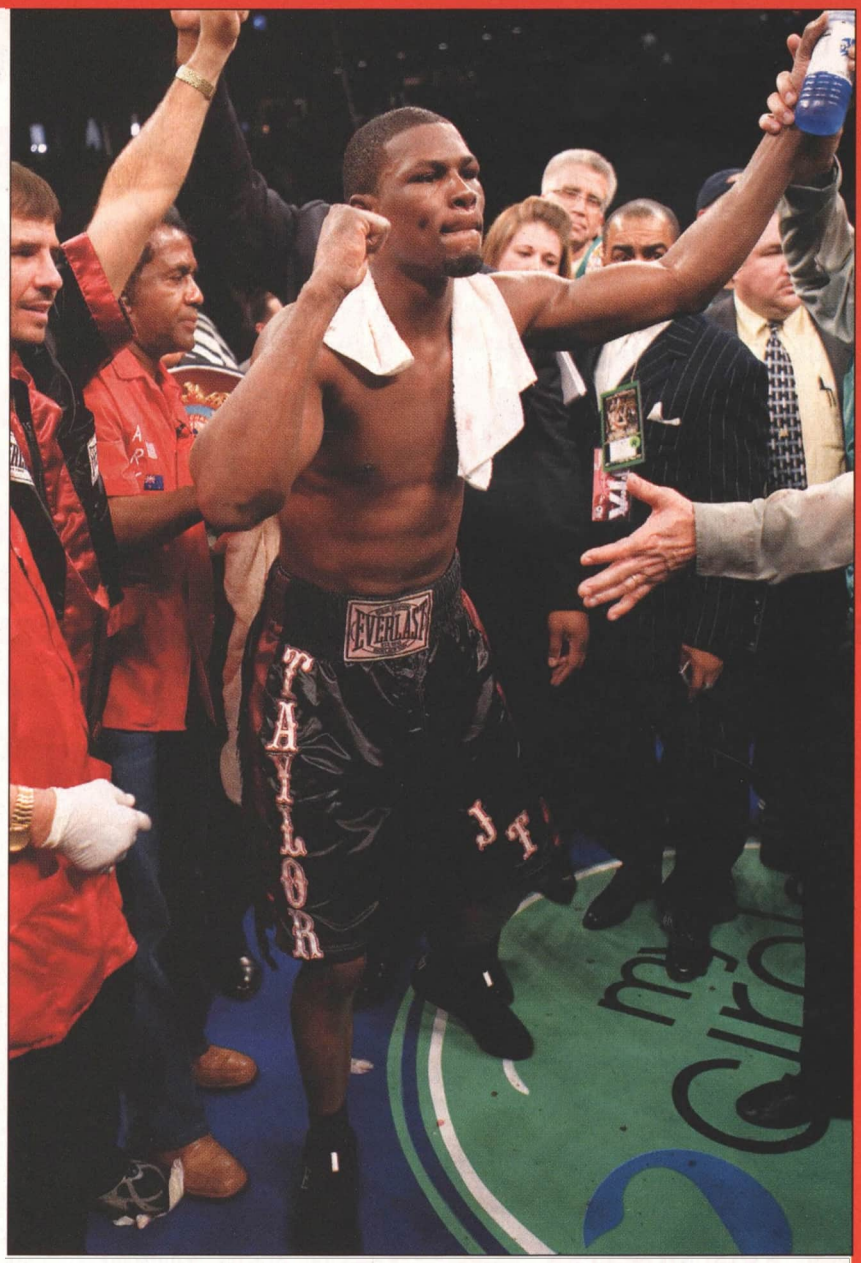
"There's no question we have to settle down some of his wildness, but it was a pressure-packed situation for Jermain," Steward said. "He was fighting a man who fought the best fight of his entire life. Ouma came at Jermain with every bit of pressure he could muster. But also, the atmosphere was unlike anything we've seen in boxing in recent years, because Jermain isn't a Little Rock fighter in the same way Tommy Hearns was a Detroit fighter. Jermain is an Arkansas fighter. He belongs to the whole state. There are billboards of Jermain, cutouts of Jermain at the airport, commercials with Jermain. Everyone loves him, and when you combine that with the first championship fight in Arkansas in a century, it was a big swirl of activity. Jermain was going to get caught up in it, to some extent, no matter what."

Ouma can match Taylor's heart and will. He could not match the champion's strength. While Ouma pressed the fight, and scraped and scuffed together whatever offense he could, he couldn't match Taylor's power, and he wasn't strong enough on those occasions he got inside.

Taylor, for the second consecutive fight, allowed a naturally smaller lefthander to maneuver him onto the ropes, which he said was part of the plan. He said he wanted to trap Ouma into working too hard early in the fight, then overwhelm the challenger later.

Instead, the champion played foil to his own strategy. He wasted energy and held little in reserve. He abandoned the jab for rounds at a time. He fought at a level, uninspired pace in the championship rounds. None is a characteristic desirable in a superstar, and none would serve Taylor well if he moved eight pounds north to fight the super middleweight craftsman Joe Calzaghe, who at press time had an April fight scheduled against Peter Manfredo.

The question of Taylor's maturation, in his seventh year as a professional, and after two wins over the legendary Hopkins, is not one we expected to ponder at this stage. Yet it is the one we are left.



Taylor was still the middleweight champion following his unanimous decision victory over Ouma, but whether or not he can become a legitimate boxing superstar is still highly debatable.

"When the bell sounded, it was almost like a starter's gun for Jermain," Steward said. "He was just energized by everything and there wasn't anything that would settle him down, except getting a few rounds under his belt. He was very wild and very ragged. But he was also very strong, and if he hadn't been punching as hard as he was, Ouma would have hustled him out of there.

"So there was some good aspect to it too. To some extent, the things people criticize about Jermain are also some of the things that make him so difficult to fight. When you combine his strength with his heart, and his willingness to exchange and throw big punches, that's a formidable combination. He knows he has some things to learn. But he has the tools and the intelligence. He has the things you can't teach. The rest will take care of itself over time." ■

David Mayo covers boxing for the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Press and is a regular contributor to THE RING.

International Boxing Hall of Fame

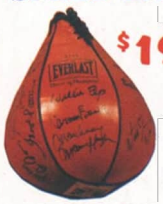
Limited Autograph Souvenirs

Boxing Greats Helping Support the Museum

The Showplace of Boxing — Canastota, NY — Boxing Hall of Fame

Certificate of Authenticity accompanies each item

CHAMPIONSHIP SPEED BAG OR GLOVE



$195

Autographed by 22 "Greats"

Antuofermo ★ Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Bramble ★ Carbajal ★ Chuvalo ★ Davis Jr. ★ Dundee ★ Foster ★ Fullmer ★ Gomez ★ Gonzalez ★ Griffith ★ Morales ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Pryor ★ Sugar ★ Thomas ★ Ward ★ Whitaker ★

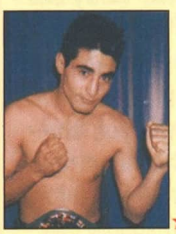
GIANT GOLD GLOVE

$225

Autographed by 22 "Greats"

Antuofermo ★ Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Bramble ★ Carbajal ★ Chuvalo ★ Davis Jr. ★ Dundee ★ Foster ★ Fullmer ★ Gomez ★ Gonzalez ★ Griffith ★ Morales ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Pryor ★ Sugar ★ Thomas ★ Ward ★ Whitaker ★

ERIK MORALES



"El Terrible" on Everlast glove

$85

★ Limited Quantity ★

JOE CALZAGHE

Super Middleweight Champion on Everlast glove

$85 ★ Limited Quantity ★

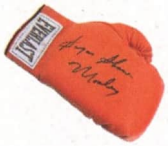
AUTOGRAPH GLOVES

(single autograph on Everlast glove)

$85

★ Bert Sugar
★ Earnie Shavers
★ Carmen Basilio
★ Leon Spinks
★ Aaron Pryor
★ Christy Martin
★ Ken Norton
★ Kid Gavilan
★ Ken Buchanan
★ Azumah Nelson
★ Buddy McGirt
★ Michael Carbajal
★ Barry McGuigan
★ "Irish" Micky Ward
★ Carlos Palomino
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ Dwight Qawi
★ Vito Antuofermo
★ Angelo Dundee
★ Angel Manfredy
★ Terry Norris
★ Danny "Little Red" Lopez
★ James "Buster" Douglas
★ Ricardo "Finito" Lopez
★ "Sugar" Shane Mosley
★ Gene Fullmer
★ Acelino "Popo" Freitas
★ Hasim Rahman
★ Hector "Macho" Camacho

CARBAJAL



WARD

NELSON

MOSLEY

AUTOGRAPH TRUNKS

(1 autograph on Everlast trunks)

$85

★ Ken Norton
★ Angelo Dundee
★ Erik Morales

COMBINATION TRUNKS

(2 autographs on Everlast trunks)

$105

★ Alexis Arguello - Aaron Pryor
★ Ken Norton - Leon Spinks

COMBINATION GLOVE

(2 autographs on Everlast glove)

$105

★ Basilio - Gavilan
★ Arguello - Pryor
★ Benvenuti - Griffith
★ Leon & Cory Spinks
★ Norton - Leon Spinks
★ Carbajal - Gonzalez

RICKY HATTON

"Hitman" on Everlast glove

$85

★ Limited Quantity ★

EVERLAST CORNER POST

$275

Autographed by 22 "Greats"

Antuofermo ★ Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Bramble ★ Carbajal ★ Chuvalo ★ Davis Jr. ★ Dundee ★ Foster ★ Fullmer ★ Gomez ★ Gonzalez ★ Griffith ★ Morales ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Pryor ★ Sugar ★ Thomas ★ Ward ★ Whitaker

BOXING ROBE

Autographed by 21 "Greats"

$275

Antuofermo ★ Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Bramble ★ Carbajal ★ Chuvalo ★ Dundee ★ Foster ★ Fullmer ★ Gomez ★ Gonzalez ★ Griffith ★ Morales ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Pryor ★ Sugar ★ Thomas ★ Ward ★ Whitaker ★

HEAVYWEIGHT GLOVE

5 heavyweight autographs on Everlast glove

★ Ken Norton
★ Leon Spinks
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ George Chuvalo
★ Earnie Shavers

$115

Phone Orders: (315) 697-7095
Fax (315) 697-5356

Make checks payable to:
BOXING HALL OF FAME
1 Hall of Fame Drive
Canastota, NY 13032

Please add 8% Sales Tax
and $8.00 per item for shipping in U.S.
Call for International shipping rates

YEAR-END SPECTACULAR

THE BEST OF 2006

Compiled by Nigel Collins, Joe Santoliquito, Eric Raskin, & Don Stewart

Far too many U.S. fans have a parochial view of boxing and tend to think that if an American isn't involved, it can't be important. But boxing, along with soccer, is one of the truly international sports, and this year's annual awards certainly emphasize and celebrate that reality.

For the second year in a row, a non-American (Manny Pacquiao) was selected as Fighter of the Year, but that was only the beginning. Fight of the Year and Round of the Year both went to the Somsak Sithchatchawal-Mahyar Monshipour brawl, a bout between an Iranian-born Frenchman and a Thai that took place in France. The winner of the Upset of the Year (Carlos Baldomir) is an Argentinean, and the Comeback of the Year went to Oleg Maskaev, who was born in Kazakhstan and currently holds dual citizenship in the United States and Russia. Finally, Mexican Jose Luis Castillo had the dubious distinction of being the nominal villain in Event of the Year, when his failure to make weight for his third fight with Diego Corrales led to the cancellation of the match and a lengthy list of unpleasant consequences.

The lone American to capture an award in '06 was Calvin Brock, who threw the punch that produced the Knockout of the Year. But even Brock would probably agree that it was a bit of a consolation prize, considering that he was knocked out himself later in the year by Wladimir Klitschko, a Ukrainian.

It's worth noting that only three of the nine men currently wearing THE RING championship belt were born in the United States. But when you think about it in a non-xenophobic manner, the greater involvement by boxers from around the world has many positive aspects. You can start with Pacquiao, whose popularity in the U.S. reached new heights in '06, and with good reason: The Filipino is a super exciting fighter whose brand of boxing bridges all language and cultural barriers.

The influx of foreign fighters has also had a positive effect on box office receipts in the United States. Latinos are already the sport's most important demographic, and American fans of all ethnicities have grown used to rooting for Mexican and Puerto Rican fighters. That appreciation has recently spread to include Filipinos. Moreover, immigrants from the former Soviet Union are now filling arenas in the U.S. to cheer on boxing heroes from the old country.

Strength through diversity has always been one of the most powerful ingredients of the great American melting pot, and the same can be said for boxing. Therefore, rather than bemoan the lack of American champions, let's rejoice in the fact that the Sweet Science can be, as the past 12 months so ably illustrated, an arena in which athletes are appreciated for their skill and bravery, regardless of where they were born.

FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

MANNY PACQUIAO

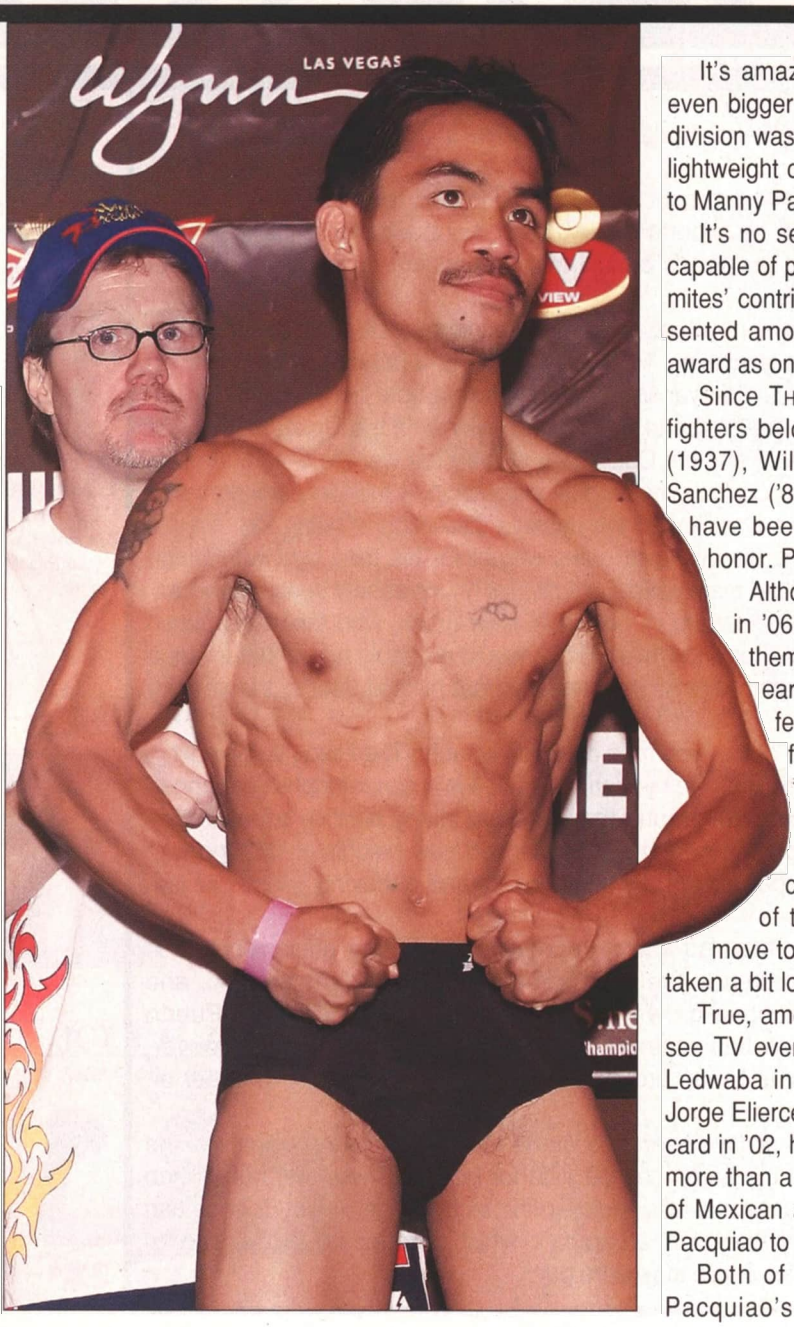


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

It's amazing what a little guy with a big smile and an even bigger punch can accomplish. While the heavyweight division was bogged down by mediocrity last year, the junior lightweight class soared to new heights thanks in large part to Manny Pacquiao, THE RING's 2006 Fighter of the Year.

It's no secret among that the lower-weight fighters are capable of providing scintillating action. Even so, the mighty mites' contribution to the sport has not been as well-represented among the winners of our most prestigious annual award as one might imagine.

Since THE RING originated the award in 1928, only six fighters below the lightweight division—Henry Armstrong (1937), Willie Pep ('45), Carlos Zarate ('77), Salvador Sanchez ('81), Michael Carbajal ('93), Paulie Ayala ('99)—have been previously selected for the magazine's top honor. Pacquiao is number seven.

Although Pacquiao tallied three impressive victories in '06, it was the manner in which he accomplished them, as opposed to the victories themselves, that earned him the distinction. "Pac-Man" is one of the few fighters in any weight class who goes all-out for the knockout from the opening bell. And isn't that, when you cut away all the baloney, exactly what all boxing fans really want?

Pacquiao has been a national hero and huge celebrity in his native Philippines since the turn of the century, but the swashbuckling Filipino's move to the forefront of boxing in the United States has taken a bit longer.

True, among the cognoscenti, Pacquiao has been must-see TV ever since he ruined previously undefeated Lehllo Ledwaba in June '01. And when he savagely dispatched Jorge Eliercer Julio on the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson undercard in '02, he did so in front of a full house in Memphis and more than a million pay-per-view customers. But it took fans of Mexican and Filipino heritage living in the U.S. to push Pacquiao to unprecedented heights.

Both of these ethnic groups were galvanized by Pacquiao's 2003 knockout of Marco Antonio Barrera.

Honorable Mention

There were a handful of other world-class fighters who contended for the top spot, and everybody mentioned below did good work last year, some of them against the odds.

•**Wladimir Klitschko** solidified his position as the leading contender for the vacant heavyweight title by knocking out Chris Byrd (to annex the IBF belt) and then flattening previously undefeated Calvin Brock.

•**Bernard Hopkins** not only rebounded from a disappointing year in 2005, he fooled damned near everybody in '06 by dominating Antonio Tarver to win the light heavyweight championship, thus becoming the first former undisputed middleweight champion to win the linear 175-pound title since Dick Tiger in 1966.

•**Joe Calzaghe**'s dazzling display against Jeff Lacy was one of the best ever by a British fighter and more than enough to make the Welshman the first recipient of THE RING super middleweight belt. But an ugly 12-round decision over Sakia Bika in his next fight cost him serious consideration for top honors.

•**Carlos Baldomir** came out of nowhere (well, Santa Fe, Argentina, actually) to win the world welterweight title with an upset decision over Zab Judah and then successfully defended it against fan-favorite Arturo Gatti.

•**Floyd Mayweather,** who remains undefeated in his 10th year as a pro, also beat Judah and then won the 147-pound world title by shutting out Baldomir.

•The quickest rise to prominence in '06 came from Japan's **Nobuo Nashiro,** who stopped previously unbeaten and highly regarded Martin Castillo in July to capture the WBC super flyweight belt in only his eighth professional outing. In his first defense, Nobuo won a 12-round unanimous decision over Eduardo Garcia.

Hopkins won his second world championship in '06

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS/HBO

Mexican fans woke up to the startling reality that there was a genuine threat to their country's dominance among the lower-weight classes. And at the same time, Filipinos living in America suddenly realized that the tiny slugger the folks back home had been raving about was their hero too. The positive economic impact made by an influx of Filipino fans was considerable and helped make the Pacquiao-Morales trilogy a financial blockbuster.

The rivalry began in March '05, when Morales won a bitterly contested but clear-cut decision. The fight was one of the

PHOTO BY JOEL NITO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Pacquiao waves to his fans upon arrival back in the Philippines following his second knockout of Morales. His unprecedented popularity in his homeland is both a blessing and a burden.

year's best, and the way Pacquiao, his face covered in blood, rallied in the final round was enough to put the Mexican's supremacy in some doubt. Then, when Pac-Man became the first ever to stop Morales, in their January '06 return bout, a rubber match became essential. Pacquiao sandwiched a demanding but lucrative 12-round decision over Oscar Larios in between, and then utterly destroyed Morales inside of three rounds in November to go 3-0 (2) for the year.

Pacquiao's two fights with Morales in '06 generated more than 700,000 pay-per-view buys, and the live attendance for their third encounter was 18,276, the fifth-best of all-time among fights held in Las Vegas. No wonder rival promoters Golden Boy and Top Rank are preparing to do battle in court for the right to promote Pacquiao's future fights.

Manny Pacquiao: The Year That Was

Every time Manny Pacquiao climbed into the boxing ring in 2006, he seemed surrounded by a tempest of controversy swirling just beyond the ropes. If it wasn't a paternity suit or the rigors of promoting his own fight, it was promoters squabbling over his services.

But "Pac-Man" actually seems to thrive amid chaos and emerged victorious every time. Most likely his ability to ignore all the commotion stems from his poverty-stricken upbringing. If you can learn to shut out the hunger in your belly and the squalor of your surroundings, the problems of being rich and famous must seem trivial by comparison.

But whatever the element in his makeup that allows Pacquiao to persevere while a storm rages around him, it is undoubtedly part of the same mindset that allows him to perform so admirably when the punches begin to fly.

KO 10 Erik Morales, Las Vegas, Nevada, January 21, 2006: At first, it seemed that Morales would be able to use the same formula for victory that served him so well in their first match—smart boxing, plenty of jabs, and enough sizzling right hands to remind Pacquaio that he wasn't the only fighter in the ring with a kick in his mitts. But Pacquiao had clearly benefited from the work he'd done with trainer Freddie Roach in the interim, and his head movement and vastly improved right hand, especially to the body, allowed Pac-Man to take over the fight after the fifth round.

Pacquiao hurt Morales with lefts to the head in the sixth, and continued to grind down his rival with bodyshots. He won the seventh, eighth, and ninth rounds decisively as the wildly enthusiastic Pacquiao fans among the crowd of 14,618 at the Thomas & Mack Center cheered him on.

Morales was still game but taking buckets of punishment, and it came as no surprise when Pacquiao smashed him to the floor in the 10th round with a colossal left hook. Somehow, he pulled himself up inside of referee Kenny Bayless' count, but when Pacquiao poured on the punches, Morales went down again and the fight was stopped at the 2:33 mark, the first kayo loss of the Mexican's career.

W 12 Oscar Larios, Quezon City, Philippines, July 7, 2006: There were worries that Pacquiao would spread himself too thin when he announced he would promote his second fight of '06 fight himself. Adding to the concerns was the fact that the bout with former WBC super bantam titleholder Oscar Larios would take place in the Philippines, where Pac-Mania had reached hysterical proportions. Roach also fretted that his charge had been too busy with various business interests to train properly.

It looked like the fears for Pacquiao were justified when Larios tagged him with a left hook in the third round that buckled his legs and glazed his eyes. The 22,000 spectators at the Areneta Coliseum sat in stunned disbelief as their hero sagged into the ropes and Larios leapt to the attack. But Pacquaio rode out the onslaught and was firing back as the round ended in a remarkable show of resiliency.

Following the third-round scare, Pacquiao methodically took apart his accomplished foe, dropping him with a three-punch combination in the seventh and then punctuating the fight with another knockdown in the 12th for a lopsided decision via scores of 117-108, 118-108, and 120-106.

KO 3 Erik Morales, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 18, 2006: Hoping that better conditioning and a more scientific approach to weight-making would allow him to turn things around in the rubber match, Morales embarked on an intensive training camp. The grueling regime did indeed allow him to make 130 pounds much easier than in their first two encounters, but once the fight started, things rapidly deteriorated for the proud and popular Mexican.

With an endless stream of commercial endorsements in the Philippines and packed houses in the U.S., Pac-Man is a walking, talking, singing (yes, he's had several hits in the Philippines), punch-slinging, moneymaking machine. And everybody wants in on the party.

The big bonus is Pacquiao himself. Carefree and fearless, he seems to love to fight as much as we love watching him, and his modest demeanor and ever-ready smile are the perfect counterbalance to his in-the-ring ferocity. And as if that wasn't enough, his incredible rags-to-riches story is one that resonates with the downtrodden everywhere. He carries the hopes and dreams of his fellow Filipinos into the ring with him every time he fights, but has never allowed it to weigh him down once the bell rings.

All of this came together in 2006 to make Pacquiao the Fighter of the Year—and the scary part is that he's still improving. With Barrera, Juan Manuel Marquez, and Edwin Valero all being talked about as possible opponents in 2007, Manny has a fighting chance of being back here again next year. ■

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Morales and Pacquiao go toe-to-toe

They traded hard shots in the first round, with the edge going to Pacquiao. Then, in the second, with Morales on the attack, Pac-Man uncorked a counter left that floored the Mexican for a mandatory eight-count. Morales fought back with everything he had as they engaged in a prolonged exchange, but the Filipino dynamo was unfazed by his rival's best punches and kept attacking.

Pacquiao's power and precision produced two more knockdowns in the third, and after the second decking, a forlorn Morales sat on the floor, fully conscious, and watched referee Vic Drakulich count him out 2:57 into the round. The beating had been so complete, so brutal, the balance of his career so filled with bravery, he was forgiven the sin of acquiescence. After all, Pacquiao is a force of nature, and in 2006 nobody could withstand his furry.

FIGHT OF THE YEAR

SOMSAK SITHCHATCHAWAL KO 10 MAHYAR MONSHIPOUR

PHOTO BY MEHDI FEDOUACH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

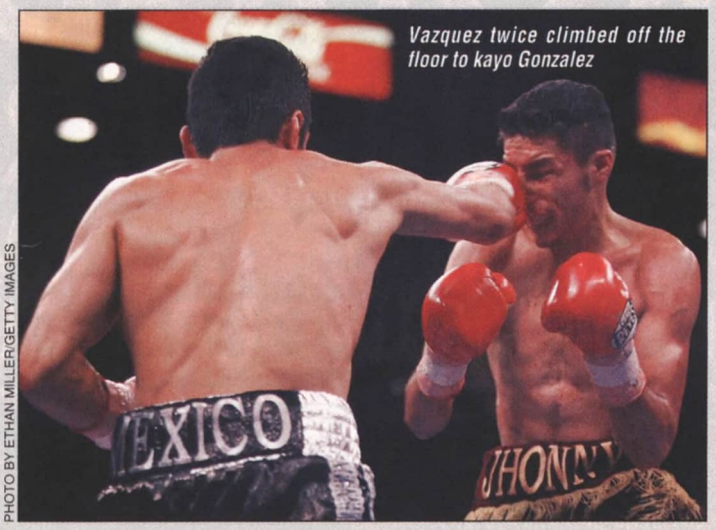
Monshipour and Somsak fire simultaneous bombs during mesmerizing brawl

In past years, a spectacular 122-pound fight in France between an Iranian-Frenchman and a Thai would be a little bit like the proverbial tree falling in a forest. As far as American fight fans are concerned, if they didn't see it, it didn't happen. But in a perfect example of how the Internet has changed the world, the March 18 brawl between Somsak Sithchatchawal and Mahyar Monshipour became more than just some obscure fight in Europe that we heard good things about and glossed over when it came time for the year-end awards. It became a youtube.com sensation among serious fight fans, and it became the slam-dunk choice for 2006's Fight of the Year.

When boxing people use the phrase "non-stop action," this is what they're talking about. Through the 10 rounds that the fight lasted, there was hardly a two-second stretch without leather flying, and if there was a single clinch, we don't remember it. And had CompuBox been tracking this fight, the punch counters would've only had half the usual work to do, because nobody was throwing any jabs. At least through the first nine rounds, it was nothing but powerpunches coming from both guys.

For southpaw Somsak, the visitor challenging for the WBA super bantam strap, it became apparent early on that the primary powerpunch to rely on was his left uppercut. Less than a

Honorable Mention



Vazquez twice climbed off the floor to kayo Gonzalez

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Tenth-round knockouts were the ending of choice in this year's most sensational fights. In another slugfest outside of America that a lot of fans didn't get to see, undefeated kayo artist **Edwin Valero** rose from a third-round knockdown to stop **Vicente Mosquera** in the 10th and claim a 130-pound belt in a scorcher in front of a rowdy pro-Mosquera crowd in Panama City in August.

Perhaps the best fight on American soil this year, the second **Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales** battle, also ended in round 10. Morales built a big early lead in the January rematch, but Pac-Man took over with bodyshots in the middle rounds and eventually hammered the Mexican great into his first career stoppage defeat.

When it comes to come-from-behind drama, nothing could top the September junior featherweight championship fight between **Israel Vazquez** and **Jhonny Gonzalez**, in which a battered and bloodied Vazquez dug deep after two early knockdowns to score two late knockdowns and stop Gonzalez in the 10th.

Speaking of coming from behind, that's exactly what **O'Neil Bell** did in January when he snagged the world cruiserweight title from an exhausted **Jean-Marc Mormeck** in the 10th round of an action-packed affair.

Nobody ever said comebacks are easy, and **Kermit Cintron**'s road back from his lone career defeat included a grueling win in April over **David Estrada**. Estrada seemed on his way to victory at numerous times during the bout before Cintron's power took over and overwhelmed Estrada in the 10th.

The two best fights in England this year also ended in the 10th: In June, unbeaten **Kevin Anderson** climbed off the canvas in the second round to win the British welterweight title from **Young Muttley** late in the 10th; and in September, junior middleweight **Jamie Moore** retained the British light middleweight title with a 10th-round stoppage of **Matthew Macklin** in a brutal battle.

Light heavyweight titlist **Tomasz Adamek** topped **Paul Briggs** by 12-round decision win in October, in a clash every bit as violent and exciting as their classic encounter a year earlier ... The best heavyweight bout of the year was **Sergei Liakhovich**'s upset of **Lamon Brewster** in May, in which the action never let up and Liakhovich had to take a knee to save himself in the seventh before battling back to prevail ... It's not often that two unexciting styles mesh well to make a Fight of the Year candidate, but that's exactly what happened when **Winky Wright** and middleweight champion **Jermain Taylor** battled to a hard-fought draw in June ... Anyone who was lucky enough to be on hand at Foxwoods to see middleweight slugger **Willie Gibbs**' March win over **Lenord Pierre**, which was stopped in Gibbs' favor with seven seconds remaining in the 12th and Pierre ahead on two cards, will tell you it was an unexpected gem.

minute into the fight, he floored Monshipour with one. A ridiculous sequence of about a dozen consecutive left uppercuts followed, and they would continue to be uncorked throughout the fight. But while Somsak was generally landing the sharper, more damaging blows, Monshipour was often outworking him, backing him into the ropes and firing away, doing his best work with the straight right hand. After Somsak built a lead over the first two rounds, Monshipour came back to win a frenzied third stanza.

Somsak had Monshipour on wobbly legs in the fifth after a pair of crushing left hands, but the Frenchman quickly regrouped and fired back. Monshipour's attack became flat-out suffocating in the sixth, despite the Thai's best efforts to slow him down with a committed body attack. Just when Somsak seemed to be on the verge of pulling away with a strong seventh round, Monshipour rallied in the eighth and ninth.

But in round 10, Somsak began throwing, of all things, a right jab, landing it over and over. Monshipour rallied, then Somsak rallied, then it was the Frenchman again, and then, finally, Somsak sapped the spirit from his foe with a series of left hooks and, fittingly, left uppercuts. With the local hero out on his feet, the incredible fight was stopped with 21 seconds remaining in the round.

It was truly a brawl for the ages. And thankfully, this being the Internet age, it was a brawl for us all. ■

ROUND OF THE YEAR

SOMSAK SITHCHATCHAWAL-MAHYAR MONSHIPOUR, ROUND 10

In some great fights, it's blatantly obvious what the best round is: round 10 of Corrales-Castillo; round nine of Ward-Gatti; round one of Hagler-Hearns. In other classic fights, it isn't as immediately apparent. Somsak Sithchatchawal's March 18 junior featherweight brawl with Mahyar Monshipour was one of those fights. It's certainly not because the fight lacked spectacular rounds; it was after all, the Fight of the Year. Rather, it's because there were almost too many spectacular rounds to choose from.

If you wanted to argue that the opening round, the third, the fifth, or the ninth were the Round of the Year, we wouldn't doubt your sincerity. The simple truth is that half of the 10 rounds in this fight were contenders for the best round of 2006. But our personal favorite is the 10th round, because it packed all the action of the aforementioned four rounds, and mixed in the drama of a stirring ending.

Through nine rounds, the fight was just about even, probably 5-4 in rounds one way or the other, with Monshipour losing an extra point in the first for suffering a knockdown. Somsak had landed the cleaner, more eye-catching blows, but Monshipour had chugged forward throughout and outworked the Thai. Two things they had in common: They'd both demonstrated huge hearts and they'd both demonstrated an utter refusal to jab. We're not exaggerating when we say there might not have been a jab thrown in the first 27 minutes of this fight.

But for some reason, as the 28th minute began, lefty Somsak suddenly started extending his lead right. And he couldn't miss with it. For the first minute of round 10, a thrilling brawl had turned into a captivating paint-job.

But it couldn't last long—or, more accurately, Monshipour wouldn't let it. He lunged in with a big left hook, backing Somsak into the ropes. The Iranian-born Frenchman followed with a smothering torrent of blows. Somsak battled back with a straight left hand, but then Monshipour let fly with his own straight left, snapping back Somsak's head along the ropes.

Like so many rounds in this fight, it was up for grabs with a minute to go. But throughout the battle, Somsak had proven himself more capable of hurting his opponent, and a series of

PHOTO BY MEHDI FEDOUACH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Virtually every round between Somsak (right) and Monshipour was a classic

Honorable Mention

Adamek and Briggs (right) exchange bombs

PHOTO BY JONATHAN DANIELS/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

While the Somsak-Monshipour fight produced no less than five viable Round of the Year candidates, another battle this year that gave us multiple contenders was the October rematch between light heavyweights **Tomasz Adamek** and **Paul Briggs**. The eighth round was a thriller in which Adamek hurt Briggs with a right hand and fantastic exchanges followed, while the ninth round was even better, featuring wild two-way action above and below the beltline.

Since the heavyweight division is not exactly awe-inspiring these days, we have to turn to the cruiserweights for a measure of big-man excitement, and we got a pair of classic cruiser rounds this year. The fourth round of the battle between unbeatens **Vadim Tokarev** and **Felix Cora Jr.** in May was spellbinding, with Tokarev dropping Cora with a right hand, Cora battling back and hurting Tokarev with a barrage of shots, and finally Tokarev forcing a stoppage with a right hand after Cora had punched himself out. And in the only cruiserweight championship fight of '06, **O'Neil Bell** and **Jean-Marc Mormeck** gave us a one-sided but thrilling seventh round, as Bell staggered the favored champion several times and the exhausted Mormeck showed inspiring grit by staying on his feet until the bell.

In terms of major fights involving superstar fighters, one of the year's best rounds came from the January rematch between **Manny Pacquiao** and **Erik Morales**. Round two was sensational, with both future Hall of Famers landing big power-punches, the most noteworthy being a straight left from Pacquiao that staggered Morales, forcing "El Terrible" to grab onto the top rope to avoid hitting the canvas.

The only superior round of '06 involving big-name fighters was the fifth round of **Carlos Baldomir**'s July welterweight title defense against **Arturo Gatti**. Baldomir hurt Gatti midway through the round, but Gatti refused to cave and landed some hellacious left hooks in return. You have to love these CompuBox stats: Gatti landed 21 of 38 powerpunches (55 percent), and Baldomir scored with an astounding 51 of 79 powershots (65 percent).

The fifth round of **Eric Aiken**'s stunning DQ upset of **Valdemir Pereira** in May was one of the great off-TV rounds of the year. Pereira, who had been knocked down in the fourth, went down again early in the fifth (nearly pulling Aiken to the canvas with him), but then he got up and battled back with a nonstop 45-second barrage that brought the crowd to its feet ... Round seven of the January thriller between **Antonio Escalante** and **Jose Hernandez** was similar in that Hernandez went down early in the round and appeared to be on the verge of a knockout loss, only to storm back and take control by round's end ... And who would have thought we'd ever have **Hector Camacho Jr.** to thank for some of the year's best thrills? In the fourth round of his June fight with **Andrey Tsurkan**, Camacho provided action and drama, spending much of the round taking a pounding in the corner, only to turn Tsurkan rubber-legged with a pair of left hands just before the bell.

huge shots with both hands froze Monshipour with 35 ticks left on the clock. A crushing left hurt Monshipour badly, and Somsak followed up with three more lefts in succession, backing the local fighter into the ropes. Monshipour gained a momentary reprieve when Somsak slipped down as he half-landed another wild left, but referee John Coyle chose not to even wipe the Thailander's glove off, not wanting to interrupt the action.

Somsak tore right back into Monshipour, landing his money punch—the left uppercut—four times in a row. Monshipour was just about out on his feet, and when another flush left hook and right cross crashed into his chin, Coyle leapt in to save him at the 2:39 mark.

We're not 100 percent sure that it was the best round of this savage battle, but we think it probably was. And if indeed it was, then it was undoubtedly the best round of the year. ■

KNOCKOUT OF THE YEAR

CALVIN BROCK KO 6 ZURI LAWRENCE

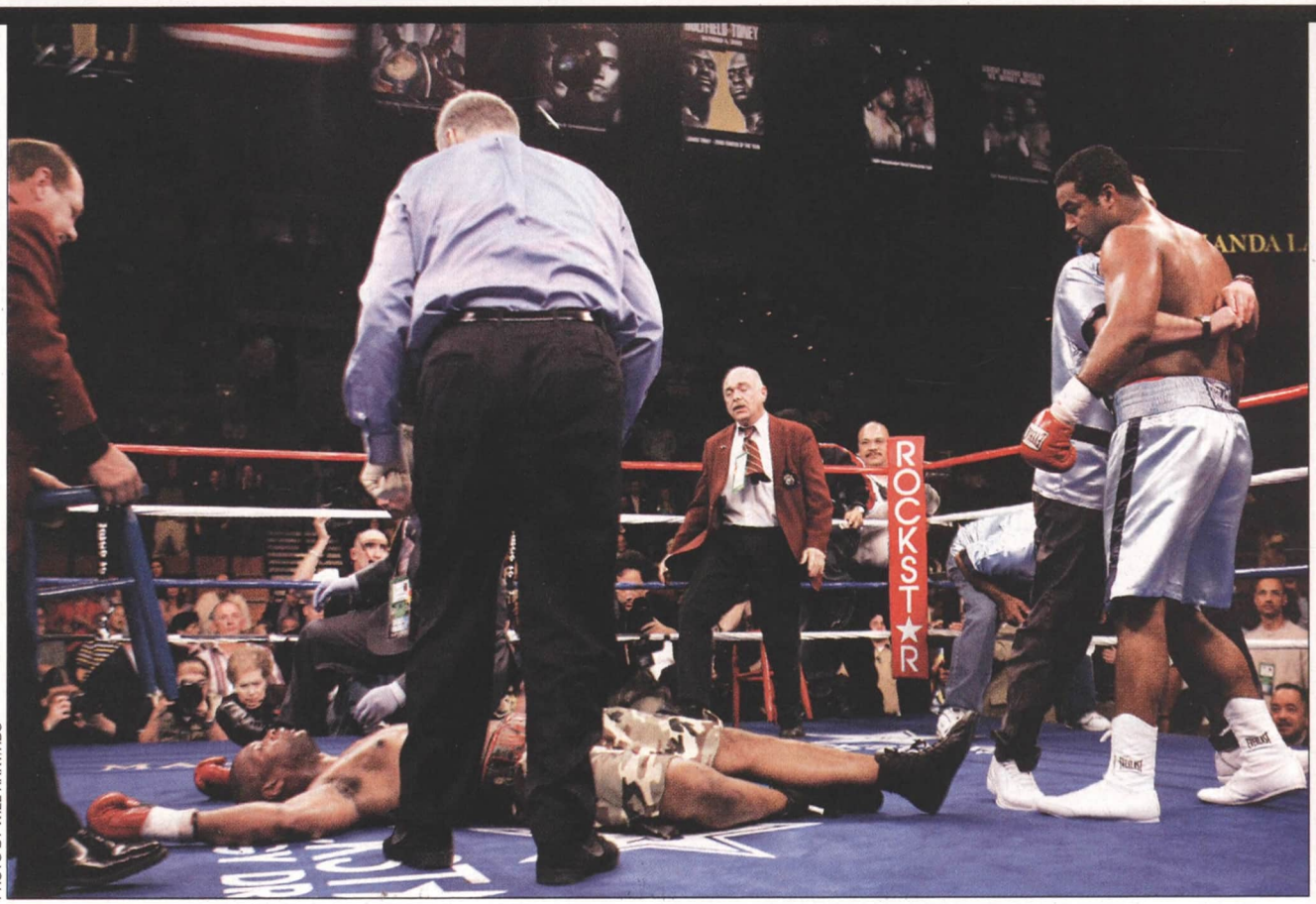


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Lawrence was out cold before he hit the floor

Promoters love warning us not to blink, turn our heads, go to the refrigerator, use the bathroom, etc., when hyping a fight that has any chance of ending early. It's one of those old selling points that so rarely rings true. How many hours have been flushed away on the likes of John Ruiz and Chris Byrd that would have been better spent with the kids, doing taxes, or rotating the tires?

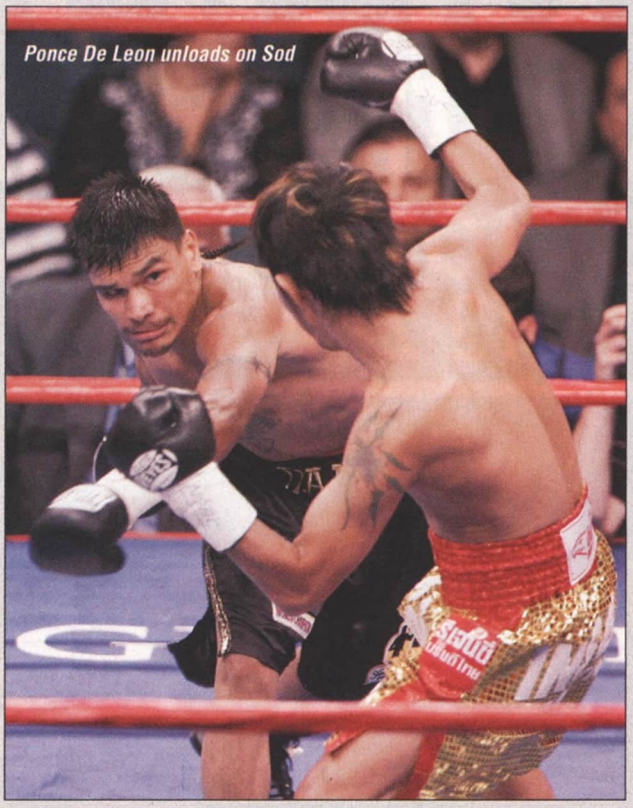
But when we do get that sudden violent conclusion, all those long, boring rounds that might have preceded it are forgiven. It's the big payoff for fight fans. Who cares about home runs and Hail Mary passes? With the possible exception of bullfighting, no sport can end as suddenly and violently as boxing.

You got your fix February 25, providing you didn't give up too soon on the heavyweight attraction on the undercard of Shane Mosley-Fernando Vargas I. It would have been easy to turn away from the Calvin Brock-Zuri Lawrence match, but anyone who went to the fridge or the bathroom missed the most vicious one-punch knockout of 2006.

Although the 6'2", 231-pound Brock entered the ring with 21 knockouts in 27 pro fights, the largely untested "Boxing Banker" was more the cerebral, tactical type than an assassin. Meanwhile, the awkward Lawrence was coming off an upset

Honorable Mention

When **Daniel Ponce De Leon** met **Sod Looknongyangtoy** in July, it took De Leon only 52 seconds to record a scary stoppage. Sod is one of three men who've lasted the distance with the junior featherweight beltholder, but he didn't fare quite as well in the rematch. Southpaw De Leon set up the Thai by circling to his right while jabbing. It worked perfectly, as an unsuspecting Sod ran into a vicious straight left and was out before hitting the floor face down. As with Lawrence, ref Nady didn't need to count before stopping it, and Sod needed oxygen before getting up. Ironically, the fight was on the Shane Mosley-Fernando Vargas II undercard.



Ponce De Leon unloads on Sod

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

In June, rising junior welterweight **Demetrius Hopkins** delivered a devastating kayo of the respectable **Michael Warrick**, setting the table for his better-known uncle's so-called farewell win three days later. Comfortably ahead in the ninth round of a bland fight, Hopkins added some serious spice with a wicked right behind a pair of jabs. After the finisher slammed into the side of his face, Warrick fell face down and remained out for several minutes.

The second season of *The Contender* delivered a thrilling come-from-behind, one-punch knockout. Behind on the cards, **Michael Stewart** landed a lethal left hook during a fourth-round exchange that dropped **Ebo Elder**. The Georgia native got up, but his legs were so rubbery, ref Jack Reiss was forced to stop it.

Sugar Shane Mosley hasn't been a knockout artist in recent years, but in July, he ended his five-year kayo drought with an impressive stoppage of **Fernando Vargas** in their PPV rematch. Mosley gave "El Feroz" a methodical beating for five rounds before dropping his opponent in the sixth with a sweet left hook that Vargas claimed he never saw. Vargas beat the count, but couldn't survive Mosley's follow-up flurry.

In the 10th round of their January rematch, **Manny Pacquiao** also used a big left to floor **Erik Morales**. It was only the second knockdown of the Mexican star's career, and even though he beat the count, he was soon down again, compliments of pair of rights that brought the early Fight of the Year candidate to a close.

Heavyweight **Shannon Briggs**' November bout with **Sergei Liakhovich** was a total dud until the final 30 seconds of the 12th round, when Briggs floored his near-exhausted foe with a right to the jaw. Briggs was also gassed, and had to gather himself before punching the Belarus native through the ropes and out of the ring for a dramatic kayo that came one second before the final bell.

The last major card of the year saw another memorable knockout when junior lightweight **Jose Hernandez** drilled previously unbeaten and highly favored prospect **Jason Litzau** with a beautiful counter right in the eighth round. The blow sent Litzau crashing down on his back, his head bouncing off the floor, and he was counted out at the 2:52 mark.

win over Jameel McCline, had handed Paolo Vidoz his first defeat, and despite the fact he'd failed to score a kayo in 35 pro fights, seemed a reasonably stubborn target.

Style-wise, however, it was, for the most part, a stinker. Brock and Lawrence were like mixing sleeping pills and vodka, with Lawrence using a two-inch height and reach advantage to keep a seemingly complacent Brock away. The portion of the Mandalay Bay crowd that was still awake booed both fighters.

But Lawrence suddenly opened up in the final 10 seconds of the sixth, throwing a right hand, a left hook, and then a right hook. Brock countered that last punch with a perfectly timed left hook over the top that slammed into Lawrence's jaw. The 35-year-old journeyman's head spun and his legs went limp as he crumpled to the floor, his right leg pinned underneath him.

The suddenly enthralled crowd erupted. Referee Jay Nady didn't even attempt a count, instead instantly terminating it two seconds before the end of the round. Lawrence remained on his back, unconscious, for several scary minutes and had to be given oxygen before finally getting up.

Brock went on to win a snooze-fest with Timor Ibragimov before being stopped by Wladimir Klitschko. He might never be the special heavyweight many want him to be, but for one blink on that February night, his left hook gave us something special to remember. ■

UPSET OF THE YEAR

CARLOS BALDOMIR W 12 ZAB JUDAH

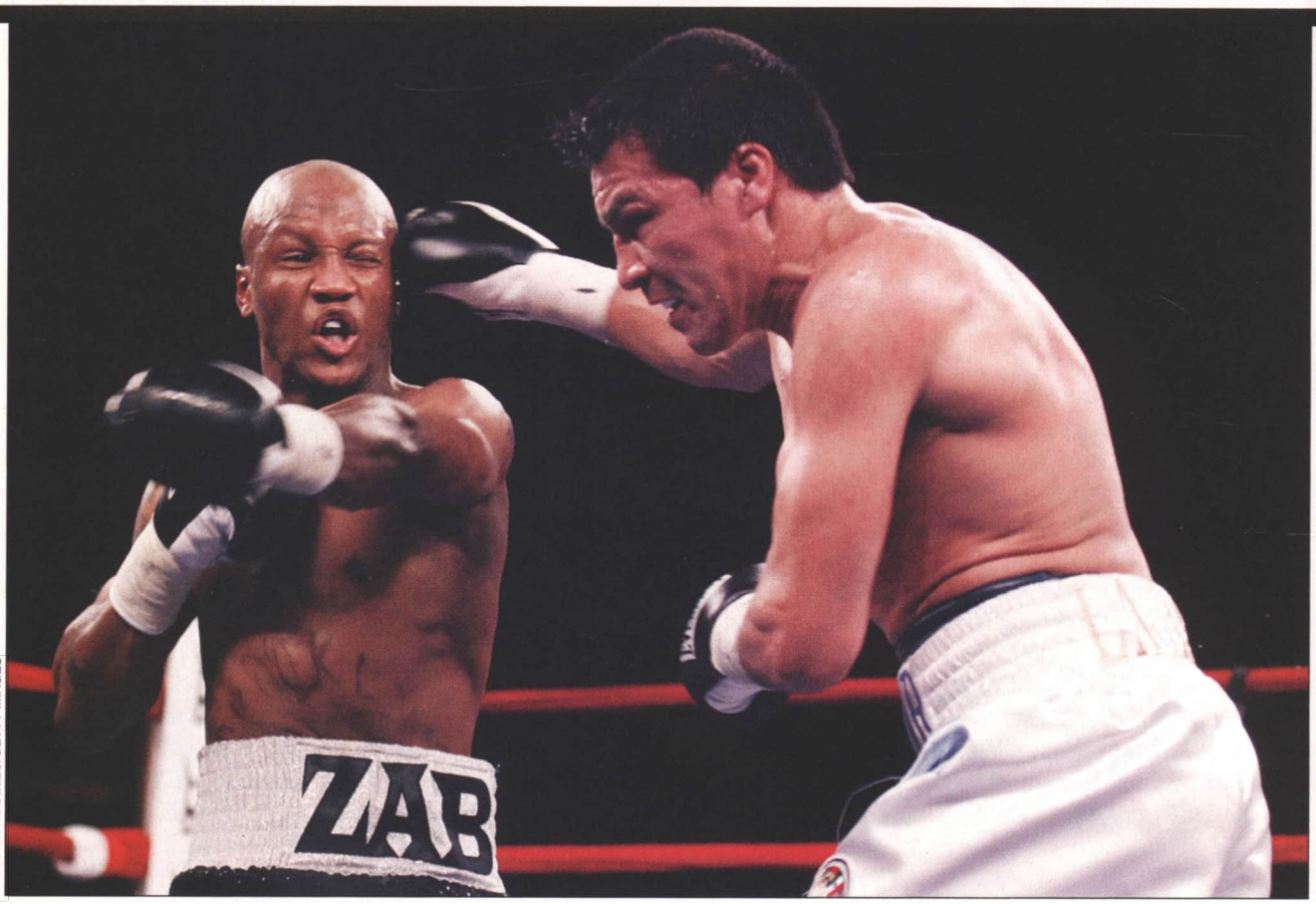


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

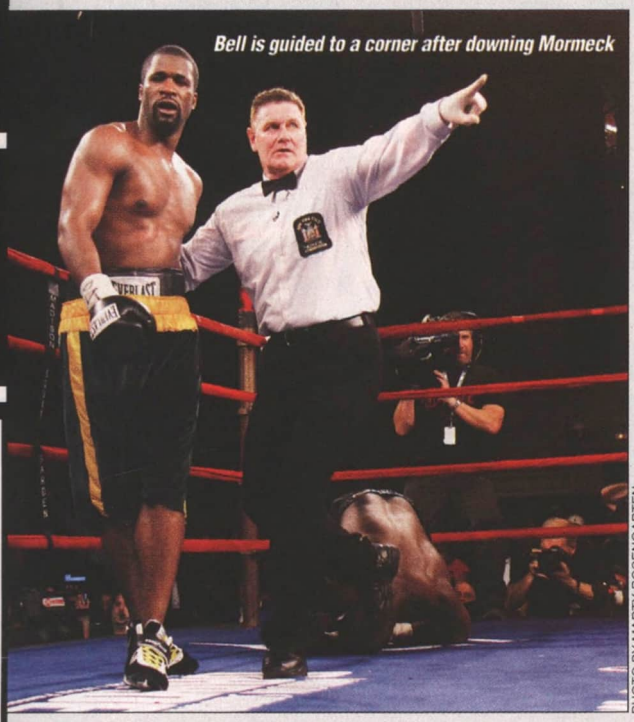
Baldomir nails Judah with a right in the biggest surprise of 2006

We're all familiar with the fable about the tortoise and the hare, in which the physically overmatched but determined underdog gets the better of the gifted but lackadaisical favorite. Has there ever been a fight that more perfectly brought that story to life than Carlos Baldomir's January victory over Zab Judah to claim the undisputed welterweight championship? Baldomir may as well have been wearing a shell on his back and Judah a pair of floppy ears, because somehow, some way, the guy who never in a million years should have had even an outside chance of winning ended up victorious purely by virtue of taking the fight seriously.

Baldomir was a 10-1 underdog, and many considered that number to be kind to him. With nine losses and six draws on his record, and with only 12 knockouts in 56 fights, it was generally believed that the Argentine didn't belong in the same ring as Judah, who was coming off a career-best year in which he kayoed Cory Spinks to claim the 147-pound title and then destroyed the normally sturdy Cosme Rivera in three rounds. Baldomir was supposed to be another Rivera, a set-up against whom Judah could look spectacular as he built interest in an April megafight with Floyd Mayweather.

Judah obviously let the perception that this was a mismatch

Honorable Mention



Bell is guided to a corner after downing Mormeck

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Quite possibly the best fighter to suffer a loss this year, **Juan Manuel Marquez**, took a major risk going to Indonesia to fight little-known **Chris John** in March, and he came out on the wrong side of a controversial unanimous decision, costing the Mexican recognition as the world's top featherweight and as a top-10 pound-for-pound fighter.

In August, junior flyweight journeyman **Omar Nino** got a shot at unbeaten U.S. Olympian **Brian Viloria**, who was being groomed for some of the biggest money fights the division had seen since the Michael Carbajal days, and proceeded to outpunch and outbox Viloria, winning a 12-round unanimous decision.

Featherweight **Eric Aiken** scored not one, but two major upsets in a six-week span in '06. First, he took his mediocre 14-4 record into an April fight with former bantam king **Tim Austin** and scored a shocking sixth-round TKO; then he challenged unbeaten **Valdemir Pereira** for an alphabet belt in May and built a slight lead before prevailing via eighth-round disqualification.

After a lopsided loss to Fernando Vargas in '05, 38-year-old **Javier Castillejo** was considered pretty well used up—until he shocked highly regarded **Felix Sturm** to claim a middleweight alphabet belt by 10th-round stoppage in July. Just a few months later, the Spanish veteran was on the opposite end of an upset, losing the belt to unknown **Mariano Carrera** by TKO in the 11th.

With only seven pro fights on his resume, **Nobuo Nashiro** was considered a no-hoper going into his July match with **Martin Castillo**, who was widely regarded as the best junior bantamweight in the world. But the Japanese neophyte gave as good as he got, winning on cuts in round 10.

Other fights that ended with the underdog's hand raised: In THE RING'S Fight of the Year, **Somsak Sithchatchawal** was a relative unknown who scored at least a minor upset by stopping **Mahyar Monshipour** ... In a classic trialhorse-shocks-prospect match, **Marcos Primera** kayoed unbeaten hotshot **Curtis Stevens** in July ... In a September battle of veteran ex-titlists, a supposedly shot **Kevin Kelley** got the better of heavily favored **Carlos Hernandez** ... And ending where we began, in the co-feature to Baldomir-Judah in January, the world cruiserweight title changed hands when inconsistent **O'Neil Bell** wore down the supposedly invincible **Jean-Marc Mormeck** over 10 entertaining rounds.

go to his head. The Brooklynite had never had weight problems in his career, yet he missed weight by a pound at the initial weigh-in. He simply wasn't in tip-top shape, and, mentally, he was totally absent. When ref Arthur Mercante Jr. asked the fighters to touch gloves at the end of his instructions, Judah winged a cheap shot at Baldomir's hip. The hare had immediately given everyone reason to root for the poor, slow tortoise.

As the fight played out, it became clear that even though Baldomir was slower, less experienced against top opposition, and didn't punch as hard, he was able to cause problems for Judah. The challenger had a good sense of timing and distance, and he never allowed Judah to get comfortable. For the first four rounds, Judah looked plain lousy. He may have won two of the rounds anyway, because Baldomir wasn't doing anything spectacular, but this wasn't the showcase that the financial backers of Mayweather vs. Judah were looking for.

In rounds five and six, Judah started to look like himself, busting Baldomir up, knocking him off-balance, scoring with combinations. But with one single punch in round seven, Baldomir took control. A right hand hurt Judah badly, and his legs started moving independently of the rest of his body. All Judah could do at that point was hold and run, and a right hand to the jaw shortly before the bell very nearly dropped him on the canvas. The guy with 12 knockouts could punch a little bit after all. And a poorly conditioned Judah was unsure how to stop him.

The rest of the way, Judah, having a confidence crisis, punched without much authority. In spots, he fought to survive, in other spots, he fought to win. But all the while, Baldomir just *fought*. Many of the 12 rounds were close, but when the final bell rang, there was little doubt who had won the majority of them. The three judges agreed: Julie Lederman scored it 114-113, Guido Cavalleri had it 115-113, and Melvina Lathan saw it 115-112, all for Baldomir. The tortoise had crossed the finish line first. And all the hare could do was wish he could go back to the start. ■

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

OLEG MASKAEV

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Maskaev slams a right into Rahman

Practically everyone had given up on Oleg Maskaev. Everyone, except for Maskaev himself. When his trainer walked out on him, when everyone in boxing pretty much forgot about him, when he seemingly entered the trial-horse stage of his career, Maskaev kept coming back to the gym.

He kept hitting the heavybag. He kept working on his rusty skills. In some people's minds, he was in danger of turning into that clichéd, thick-tongued old pug you remember seeing in *Requiem For A Heavyweight*.

So who would have predicted that Maskaev would end the year with a title belt wrapped around his waist? Who knew '06 would be the best of his 12-year career?

It appears Maskaev did, with a little help from trainer Victor Valle Jr., who replaced Maskaev's longtime trainer Bob Jackson. The two have been on a three-year winning streak that concluded with "The Big O" taking the WBC heavyweight title from Hasim Rahman via 12th-round stoppage on August 12 in Las Vegas.

Maskaev had built a nice 10-fight winning streak entering the rematch with Rahman, who had suffered the same fate when he met Maskaev in 1999. But whereas Rahman recovered from that defeat to go on and become world heavyweight champion, Maskaev plummeted. Kirk Johnson and Lance "Goofi" Whitaker knocked him out in successive fights. Three fights later, journeyman Corey Sanders stopped Maskaev in eight rounds.

Honorable Mention

De La Hoya looks anything but rusty in dropping Mayorga

PHOTO BY DONALD MIRALLE/GETTY IMAGES

When you think of **Bernard Hopkins**' body of work, the word "comeback" doesn't usually pop into your mind. But that's exactly what "The Executioner" was faced with when he opted for the challenge of moving up two weight classes to fight then-light heavyweight world champion Antonio Tarver in June. Hopkins hadn't fought in six months, and was looking to rebound from consecutive losses to Jermain Taylor. But as it turned out, the layoff didn't hinder Hopkins at all, and the former middleweight world champ fought as if he'd stepped through a time tunnel, easily outpointing Tarver over 12 one-sided rounds.

Oscar De La Hoya, another future Hall of Famer, was also in comeback mode in '06. "The Golden Boy" returned from a 20-month hiatus, the longest layoff of his career, to face flamboyant Ricardo Mayorga in May. The hard-charging Nicaraguan was tailor-made for De La Hoya, who vanquished his erratic foe in the sixth round with one of the finest left hooks he's ever thrown.

Heavyweight **Shannon Briggs** has struggled to get back on track since being stopped by Lennox Lewis in a 1998 title shot. But after losing to Jameel McCline in '02, Briggs built a nice winning streak against nondescript opponents, setting up a November fight with WBO beltholder Sergei Liakhovich. Trailing on all three scorecards entering the 12th, Briggs topped his comeback year with a comeback victory, putting Liakhovich through the ropes in the waning seconds of the final round for a dramatic kayo victory.

Kermit Cintron was relegated to boxing's no-man's land after his kayo defeat to Antonio Margarito in '05. But "The Killer" underwent a career makeover under Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward. Since the Margarito defeat, Cintron went on a three-fight winning streak, the culmination coming in a six-round stoppage of Mark Suarez in October for the vacant IBF welterweight title.

By '02, Maskaev looked finished. The Sanders loss was the lowest point of his career and was enough to force Jackson to bail on him, trying to convince the Russian expatriate to get out while he still had his health. Doubts arose as to whether or not Maskaev could take a punch, or if he still had the punch to make opponents respect him. But even after his old team deserted him, the Big O persevered. He kept showing up to the gym every day—by himself.

It's that diligence that attracted Valle, who got together with promoter Dennis Rappaport and manager Fred Kersh. Together, the trio formulated a plan to gradually rebuild Maskaev by feasting on unremarkable opponents. His most significant victory during that streak came against undefeated prospect David Defiagbon, over whom Maskaev eked out a split 10-round decision.

Beating Sinan Samil Sam in a WBC eliminator in November 2005 earned Maskaev a shot at Rahman, and by then Valle had even taught the old dog a few new tricks. Noted mostly for his right cross, Maskaev, 33-5 (26), startled Rahman in the second round with hard left hooks, and when he wasn't utilizing his newly discovered hook, Maskaev slammed Rahman with effective shots to the body.

Overall, Maskaev was a bit of a revelation. He jabbed. He moved. He threw his vaunted right cross. And the left hook. For the most part, he stayed off the ropes and kept Rahman in the middle of the ring. He looked like a different fighter. And although he didn't knock Rahman clear out of the ring, as he had in their first fight, he did put him down and was dishing out a one-sided beating when referee Jay Nady rescued the former champion at the 2:17 mark of the 12th.

Maskaev finished the year with a defense in Moscow, where he won an easy 12-round decision over Peter Okhello to set up more lucrative fights in 2007. ■

EVENT OF THE YEAR

CORRALES-CASTILLO III WEIGH-IN

If it wasn't such a loss for the sport, it might have been comical. On June 2, eight months after he failed to make weight for his lightweight title fight rematch with Diego Corrales, Mexican warrior Jose Luis Castillo scaled 139½ for a scheduled third bout in Las Vegas. But, hey, at least he cleared the junior welterweight limit by a half a pound.

Corrales and promoter Gary Shaw weren't laughing. When Castillo missed the 135-pound limit by 3½ pounds in October of 2005, the proud Corrales opted to go ahead with the rematch (and get paid) anyway. The heavier Castillo drilled the champion in the fourth round with a perfectly timed left hook to the jaw that sent Corrales to la-la land long enough to be counted out. Corrales, who got to keep the belt by virtue of making weight, wasn't going to put himself at risk again.

So the June 2 fight was off. Corrales lost a $1.2-million purse, nearly 8,000 tickets were refunded, and Showtime was forced to go with flyweight beltholder Vic Darchinyan's defense against Luis Maldonado as its main event from a sparsely populated Thomas & Mack Center. Worst of all, boxing was robbed of one of its most anticipated bouts of the year. Whether or not Castillo's weight struggles have cast a shadow over the legendary battle that was Corrales-Castillo I is debatable. The 10 rounds of dramatic brutality displayed on that May night in 2005 are among the most memorable in recent

The totally depleted Castillo had to be helped to his feet for his failed attempt to make weight for a third bout with Corrales

PHOTOS BY RICK GUZMAN

Honorable Mention

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Police, security, and commission members try to quell the Judah-Mayweather riot

It was bad enough that they were fighting for a tainted IBF belt, but a mid-fight melee further stained April's **Floyd Mayweather-Zab Judah** welterweight clash. In the final seconds of the 10th round, Judah hit Mayweather with a low blow and a right to the back of the head. As referee Richard Steele gave Mayweather time to recover from the double foul, trainer Roger Mayweather, Floyd's uncle, climbed into the ring and went after Judah. That prompted trainer Yoel Judah, Zab's father, to jump in and go after Roger Mayweather. A riot nearly broke out as handlers for both fighters and police officers flooded into the ring.

After the fight within the fight was quelled, Floyd Mayweather went on to capture a 12-round unanimous decision. In its last days under longtime director Marc Ratner, the Nevada commission suspended Zab Judah for one year and fined him $250,000. Yoel Judah and Roger Mayweather were each fined $200,000 and suspended for a year, while Mayweather cornerman Leonard Ellerbe was suspended four months and fined $50,000.

The sport enjoyed a much better night the following month when its cash cow, **Oscar De La Hoya**, made a triumphant return against Ricardo Mayorga. The 33-year-old De La Hoya delivered an impressive six-round stoppage, setting up a 2007 showdown with Mayweather. De La Hoya was undoubtedly enticed by the year-high 925,000 pay-per-view buys and $46.2-million generated by the Mayorga fight.

The reality series ***The Contender*** made a successful switch from network TV to cable in its second season. It averaged a 1.5 Nielson rating on ESPN, meaning it was seen in roughly 1.65 million homes, enough to give us a third season. Grady Brewer outpointed Steve Forbes in a not-so-pretty final waged between a pair of featherfisted boxers.

Anyone weeping in agony over the absence of Sylvester Stallone from season two of *The Contender* could get their Sly fix at Christmas when the sixth Rocky movie was released. Stallone wanted to give his favorite character a better send off than the awful *Rocky V*, so in ***Rocky Balboa*** an aging Italian Stallion returns to challenge fictional heavyweight king Mason Dixon (played by light heavyweight Antonio Tarver).

A real heavyweight titleholder, **Trevor Berbick**, was murdered October 28 near his home in Port Anthony, Jamaica. Berbick, who was anywhere from 49 to 56, is best remembered for beating Muhammad Ali in Ali's last fight and falling to Mike Tyson in Tyson's first title bout.

Known for its NHL and Tour de France coverage, the upstart cable network **Versus** (formerly Outdoor Life Network) added Top Rank-promoted boxing shows to its Thursday night lineup. *Fight Night* premiered July 27 as Bob Papa and Wally Matthews called middleweight prospect Kelly Pavlik's stoppage of Bronco McKart.

boxing history. But Castillo's image might have suffered irreparable damage.

At the weigh-in, a drained Castillo was so lifeless from weight loss that he had to be helped off the stage floor. When he apologized to Corrales, "Chico" said, "I wanted to hit him in the mouth." He and Shaw filed a $22-million lawsuit against Castillo and promoter Bob Arum that still hadn't been resolved at press time. But for all of his holier-than-thou talk in the immediate aftermath of the cancellation, Corrales came out looking like a hypocrite in October when he failed to make the 135-pound limit for his defense against Joel Casamayor, who outpointed him to take the title.

Meanwhile, the Nevada State Athletic Commission gave Castillo the maximum fine of $250,000, suspended him for the rest of 2006, and barred him from ever trying to fight at lightweight again. Despite the debacle, Castillo appeared to be headed toward a chance at some redemption against junior welterweight champ Ricky Hatton in 2007.

As for the weight issue, Castillo should have known better. The blame didn't rest with him alone, however. There was the WBC, which was supposed to monitor Castillo's weight in the month leading up to the fight. There were Castillo's handlers, who must have realized well before the weigh-in that their man wouldn't make the limit. And what about Shaw and Arum, who ignored Castillo's history of fighting above 135 when they made the rubber match?

Corrales claimed that he'd have met Castillo at 140 if he'd been told a week in advance. Instead, it's doubtful we'll ever see these two guys in the same ring again. Not unless they put one in a courtroom. ■

PAST WINNERS

FIGHTER Of The Year

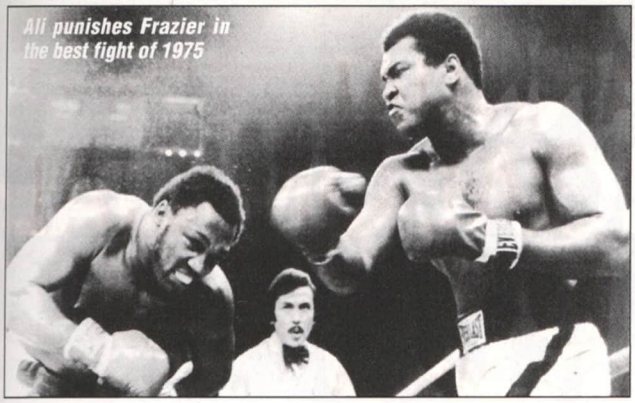
1928: Gene Tunney
1929: Tommy Loughran
1930: Max Schmeling
1931: Tommy Loughran
1932: Jack Sharkey
1933: No Award
1934: Tony Canzoneri/Barney Ross
1935: Barney Ross
1936: Joe Louis
1937: Henry Armstrong
1938: Joe Louis
1939: Joe Louis
1940: Billy Conn
1941: Joe Louis
1942: Ray Robinson
1943: Fred Apostoli
1944: Beau Jack
1945: Willie Pep
1946: Tony Zale
1947: Gus Lesnevich
1948: Ike Williams
1949: Ezzard Charles
1950: Ezzard Charles
1951: Ray Robinson
1952: Rocky Marciano
1953: Bobo Olson
1954: Rocky Marciano
1955: Rocky Marciano

Marciano was a three-time Fighter of the Year

1956: Floyd Patterson
1957: Carmen Basilio
1958: Ingemar Johansson
1959: Ingemar Johansson
1960: Floyd Patterson
1961: Joe Brown
1962: Dick Tiger
1963: Cassius Clay
1964: Emile Griffith
1965: Dick Tiger
1966: No Award
1967: Joe Frazier
1968: Nino Benvenuti
1969: Jose Napoles
1970: Joe Frazier
1971: Joe Frazier
1972: Muhammad Ali/Carlos Monzon
1973: George Foreman
1974: Muhammad Ali
1975: Muhammad Ali
1976: George Foreman
1977: Carlos Zarate
1978: Muhammad Ali
1979: Ray Leonard
1980: Thomas Hearns
1981: Ray Leonard/Salvador Sanchez
1982: Larry Holmes
1983: Marvin Hagler
1984: Thomas Hearns
1985: Marvin Hagler/Donald Curry
1986: Mike Tyson
1987: Evander Holyfield
1988: Mike Tyson
1989: Pernell Whitaker
1990: Julio Cesar Chavez
1991: James Toney
1992: Riddick Bowe
1993: Michael Carbajal
1994: Roy Jones
1995: Oscar De La Hoya
1996: Evander Holyfield
1997: Evander Holyfield
1998: Floyd Mayweather
1999: Paulie Ayala
2000: Felix Trinidad
2001: Bernard Hopkins
2002: Vernon Forrest
2003: James Toney
2004: Glen Johnson
2005: Ricky Hatton

FIGHT Of The Year

1945: Rocky Graziano KO 10 Freddie Cochrane
1946: Tony Zale KO 6 Rocky Graziano
1947: Rocky Graziano KO 6 Tony Zale
1948: Marcel Cerdan KO 12 Tony Zale
1949: Willie Pep W 15 Sandy Saddler
1950: Jake LaMotta KO 15 Laurent Dauthuille
1951: Jersey Joe Walcott KO 7 Ezzard Charles
1952: Rocky Marciano KO 13 Jersey Joe Walcott
1953: Rocky Marciano KO 11 Roland LaStarza
1954: Rocky Marciano KO 8 Ezzard Charles
1955: Carmen Basilio KO 12 Tony DeMarco
1956: Carmen Basilio KO 9 Johnny Saxton
1957: Carmen Basilio W 15 Ray Robinson
1958: Ray Robinson W 15 Carmen Basilio
1959: Gene Fullmer KO 14 Carmen Basilio
1960: Floyd Patterson KO 5 Ingemar Johansson
1961: Joe Brown W 15 Dave Charnley
1962: Joey Giardello W 10 Henry Hank
1963: Cassius Clay W 10 Doug Jones
1964: Cassius Clay KO 7 Sonny Liston
1965: Floyd Patterson W 12 George Chuvalo
1966: Jose Torres W 15 Eddie Cotton
1967: Nino Benvenuti W 15 Emile Griffith
1968: Dick Tiger W 10 Frank DePaula
1969: Joe Frazier KO 7 Jerry Quarry
1970: Carlos Monzon KO 12 Nino Benvenuti
1971: Joe Frazier W 15 Muhammad Ali
1972: Bob Foster KO 14 Chris Finnegan
1973: George Foreman KO 2 Joe Frazier
1974: Muhammad Ali KO 8 George Foreman
1975: Muhammad Ali KO 14 Joe Frazier
1976: George Foreman KO 5 Ron Lyle
1977: Jimmy Young W 12 George Foreman
1978: Leon Spinks W 15 Muhammad Ali
1979: Danny Lopez KO 15 Mike Ayala
1980: Matthew Saad Muhammad KO 14 Yaqui Lopez
1981: Sugar Ray Leonard KO 14 Thomas Hearns
1982: Bobby Chacon W 15 Bazooka Limon
1983: Bobby Chacon W 12 Cornelius Boza-Edwards
1984: Jose Luis Ramirez KO 4 Edwin Rosario
1985: Marvin Hagler KO 3 Thomas Hearns
1986: Steve Cruz W 15 Barry McGuigan
1987: Sugar Ray Leonard W 12 Marvin Hagler
1988: Tony Lopez W 12 Rocky Lockridge
1989: Roberto Duran W 12 Iran Barkley
1990: Julio Cesar Chavez KO 12 Meldrick Taylor
1991: Robert Quiroga W 12 Akeem Anifowoshe
1992: Riddick Bowe W 12 Evander Holyfield
1993: Michael Carbajal KO 7 Chiquita Gonzalez
1994: Jorge Castro KO 9 John David Jackson
1995: Saman Sorjaturong KO 7 Chiquita Gonzalez
1996: Evander Holyfield KO 11 Mike Tyson
1997: Arturo Gatti KO 5 Gabriel Ruelas
1998: Ivan Robinson W 10 Arturo Gatti
1999: Paulie Ayala W 12 Johnny Tapia
2000: Erik Morales W 12 Marco Antonio Barrera
2001: Micky Ward W 10 Emanuel Burton



Ali punishes Frazier in the best fight of 1975

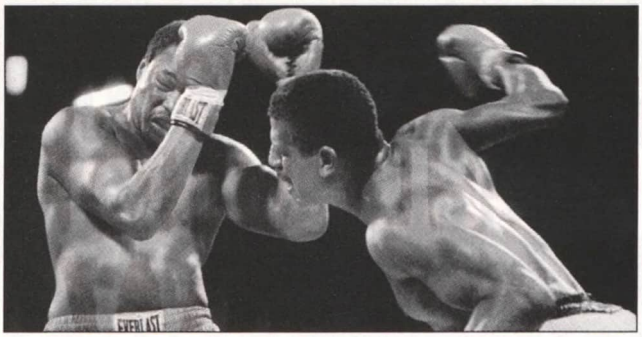
2002: Micky Ward W 10 Arturo Gatti
2003: Arturo Gatti W 10 Micky Ward
2004: Marco Antonio Barrera W 12 Erik Morales
2005: Diego Corrales KO 10 Jose Luis Castillo

ROUND Of The Year

1945: Joyce-Williams, 12
1946: Zale-Graziano, 6
1947: Louis-Walcott, 4
1948: Louis-Walcott, 11
1949: Graziano-Fusari, 10
1950: LaMotta-Dauthuille, 15
1951: Marciano-Louis, 8
1952: Marciano-Walcott, 13
1953: Gavilan-Basilio, 2
1954: Moore-Johnson, 14
1955: Moore-Olson, 3
1956: Robinson-Olson, 4
1957: Robinson-Fullmer, 5
1958: Johansson-Machen, 1
1959: Johansson-Patterson, 3
1960: Patterson-Johansson, 5
1961: Patterson-Johansson, 1
1962: Liston-Patterson, 1
1963: Liston-Patterson, 1
1964: Torres-Olson, 1
1965: Torres-Pastrano, 6
1966: Ortiz-Ramos, 5
1967: Tiger-Rouse, 12
1968: Foster-Tiger, 4
1969: Benvenuti-Rodriguez, 11
1970: Ali-Bonavena, 15
1971: Frazier-Ali, 15
1972: Ali-Foster, 5
1973: Foreman-Frazier, 2
1974: Ali-Foreman, 8
1975: Ali-Frazier, 12
1976: Foreman-Lyle, 4 & 5
1977: Young-Foreman, 12
1978: Spinks-Ali, 15
1979: Franklin-Johnson, 8
1980: Saad Muhammad-Lopez, 8
1981: Lee-LoCicero, 5
1982: Gomez-Pintor, 3
1983: Holmes-Witherspoon, 9
1984: Meza-Garza, 1
1985: Hagler-Hearns, 1
1986: Cruz-McGuigan, 15
1987: Seabrooks-Jacob, 1
1988: Tyson-Spinks, 1
1989: Gutierrez-Franklin, 12
1990: Davis-Breland, 9
1991: No Award
1992: Bowe-Holyfield, 10
1993: Norris-Waters, 2
1994: Castro-Jackson, 9
1995: Sorjaturong-Gonzalez, 7
1996: Liles-Littles, 3
1997: Gatti-Ruelas, 5
1998: Robinson-Gatti II, 3
1999: De La Hoya-Quartey, 6
2000: Morales-Barrera, 5
2001: Hopkins-Trinidad, 10
2002: Ward-Gatti I, 9
2003: Freitas-Barrios, 11
2004: Barrera-Morales III, 11
2005: Corrales-Castillo I, 10

KNOCKOUT Of The Year

1989: Michael Nunn KO 1 Sumbu Kalambay
1990: Terry Norris KO 1 John Mugabi
1991: No Award
1992: Kennedy McKinney KO 11 Welcome Ncita
Morris East KO 11 Akinobu Hiranaka
1993: Gerald McClellan KO 5 Julian Jackson
1994: George Foreman KO 10 Michael Moorer
1995: Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 11 Carl Daniels
1996: Wilfredo Vasquez KO 11 Eloy Rojas
1997: Arturo Gatti KO 5 Gabriel Ruelas
1998: Roy Jones KO 4 Virgil Hill
1999: Derrick Jefferson KO 6 Maurice Harris
2000: Ben Tackie KO 10 Roberto Garcia
2001: Lennox Lewis KO 4 Hasim Rahman
2002: Lennox Lewis KO 8 Mike Tyson
2003: Rocky Juarez KO 10 Antonio Diaz



Spinks upsets Holmes in 1985

2004: Antonio Tarver KO 2 Roy Jones
2005: Allan Green KO 1 Jaidon Codrington

UPSET Of The Year

1980: Yasutsune Uehara KO 6 Sammy Serrano
1981: Roger Stafford W 10 Pipino Cuevas
1982: Kirkland Laing W 10 Roberto Duran
1983: Gerrie Coetzee KO 10 Michael Dokes
1984: Gene Hatcher KO 11 Johnny Bumphus
1985: Michael Spinks W 15 Larry Holmes
1986: Lloyd Honeyghan KO 6 Donald Curry
1987: Sugar Ray Leonard W 12 Marvin Hagler
1988: Iran Barkley KO 3 Thomas Hearns
1989: Rene Jacquot W 12 Donald Curry
1990: Buster Douglas KO 10 Mike Tyson
1991: No Award
1992: Azumah Nelson KO 8 Jeff Fenech
1993: Simon Brown KO 4 Terry Norris
1994: Vuyani Bungu W 12 Kennedy McKinney
1995: Willy Salazar KO 7 Danny Romero
1996: Evander Holyfield KO 11 Mike Tyson
1997: Vince Phillips KO 10 Kostya Tszyu
1998: Ivan Robinson W 10 Arturo Gatti
1999: Willy Wise W 10 Julio Cesar Chavez
2000: Jose Luis Castillo W 12 Steve Johnston
2001: Hasim Rahman KO 5 Lennox Lewis
2002: Juan Carlos Rubio W 10 Francisco Bojado
2003: Corrie Sanders KO 2 Wladimir Klitschko
2004: Glen Johnson KO 9 Roy Jones
2005: Zahir Raheem W 12 Erik Morales

COMEBACK Of The Year

1980: Shoji Oguma
1981: Jimmy Young
1982: Bobby Chacon
1983: Roberto Duran
1984: Marvin Johnson
1985: Lupe Pintor
1986: Edwin Rosario
1987: Frankie Duarte
1988: Michael Dokes
1989: Roberto Duran
1990: Tony Lopez
1991: Vinny Pazienza
1992: Iran Barkley
1993: Zack Padilla
1994: George Foreman
1995: Azumah Nelson
1996: Danny Romero
1997: Vince Phillips
1998: Kostya Tszyu
1999: Michael Carbajal
2000: Virgil Hill
2001: John Michael Johnson
2002: Arturo Gatti
2003: James Toney
2004: Marco Antonio Barrera
2005: Ike Quartey

EVENT Of The Year

1993: Fan Man at Holyfield-Bowe
1994: Revenge: The Rematches
1995: Tyson returns
1996: Riot at The Garden
1997: The bite
1998: Tyson's reinstatement
1999: The IBF indictments
2000: Mosley vs. De La Hoya
2001: Middleweight World Championship Series
2002: The Lewis-Tyson press conference brawl
2003: Roy Jones fights at heavyweight
2004: Lennox Lewis retirement
2005: *The Contender*

THE 28TH ANNUAL HIGHLY UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL AWARDS

Manager Of The Year
Javier Zapata (Carlos Baldomir)

Trainer Of The Year
Freddie Roach

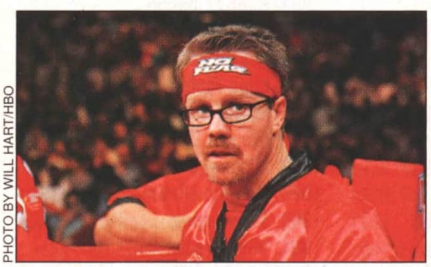


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Roach had the magic touch in 2006

Female Fighter of the Year
Holly Holm

Female Fight of the Year
Anne Sophie Mathis KO 7 Myriam Lamare

Most Exciting Division
Junior Lightweight

Most Boring Division
Strawweight

Division With Most Potential
Welterweight

Division With Least Potential
Strawweight

Future Champion Trophy
Paul Williams

Billy Graham-Joey Giardello Highway Robbery Award
Juan Lazcano W 10 Manuel Garnica
Juan Urango W 12 Naoufel Ben Rabah
Jorge Paez Jr. W 4 Derrick Campos

Tony Zale Bodypuncher Memorial
Miguel Cotto (again)

Eder Jofre Best-Fighter-You-Never-Saw Award
Edwin Valero

Count Dracula Bloodbath Crimson Band-Aid
Israel Vazquez KO 4 Ivan Hernandez
Tomasz Adamek W 12 Paul Briggs

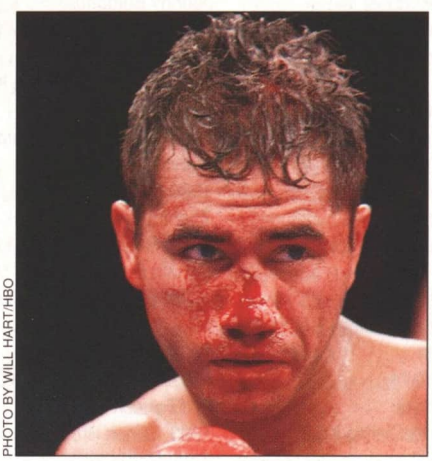


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Hernandez' gory laceration forced a fourth-round TKO

Duane Bobick Disappointment Award
Joel Julio, Jeff Lacy, Jason Estrada, Zab Judah

Rocky Balboa Gutsiest Effort Award
Paulie Malignaggi (vs. Miguel Cotto)
Israel Vazquez (vs. Jhonny Gonzalez)
Somsak Sithchatchawal (vs. Mahyar Monshipour)
Mahyar Monshipour (vs. Somsak Sithchatchawal)

Henry Armstrong Windmill Imitation
Sam Soliman

Red Light-Green Light Crossroads Fight Of The Year
Kelly Pavlik KO 6 Bronco McKart

The Comedy-On-TV Golden Giggles Award
Larry Merchant wearing one of Kassim Ouma's "I ❤ Larry Merchant" hats as he wrapped up the Taylor-Ouma broadcast

Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom Featherfists Award
Jose Navarro

Muhammad Ali Time-To-Retire Pension Check
Joe Mesi, Fernando Vargas, Jesus Perez, Scott Pemberton, Vince Phillips, Hector Camacho Jr., Courtney Burton, Alfred Kotey

Tony Ayala Jr. Wasted Talent Trophy
Scott Harrison

Thomas Dewey "Fading Down The Stretch" Award
Cory Spinks (vs. Roman Karmazin)

Buster Mathis Miniature Empty Refrigerator
James Toney (again)

Don't-Get-Up-To-Get-A-Beer Silver Mug
Antonio Margarito KO 1 Manuel Gomez
Jorge Barrios KO 1 Janos Nagy

Daniel Ponce De Leon KO 1
Sod Looknongyangtoy
Sam Peter KO 2 Julius Long
Manny Pacquiao KO 3 Erik Morales
Edison Miranda KO1 Willie Gibbs

Howard Cosell "We Love Boxing" Trophy
The ESPYs, for apparently compiling their "Boxer Of The Year" nominees each year without consulting with anyone who follows boxing

Ken Norton Media Good Guy Award
Wladimir Klitschko

Muhammad Ali "How To Lose With Class" Trophy
Erik Morales

Spit-Or-Get-Off-The-Pot Award
Laila Ali, Ivan Calderon, Luis Perez

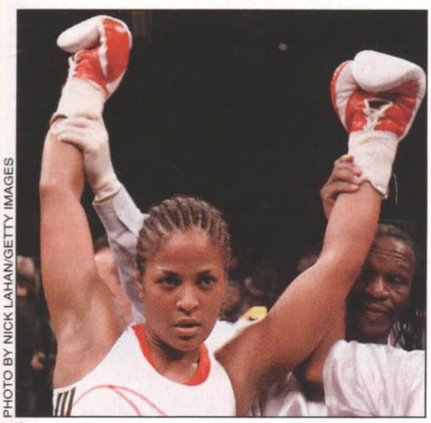


PHOTO BY NICK LAHAN/GETTY IMAGES

Time for Laila to stop spinning her wheels

Joe Bugner Just-Glad-To-Be-Here Trophy
Rolando Reyes (vs. Jose Luis Castillo)
Antonio Tarver (vs. Bernard Hopkins)
Sergei Liakhovich (vs. Shannon Briggs)
Rocky Juarez (vs. Marco Antonio Barrera, second fight)
Prince Badi Ajamu (vs. Roy Jones)

Archie Moore Ol'-Man-River Rocking Chair
Evander Holyfield

Jake LaMotta Cast-Iron-Chin Anvil
Kassim Ouma (vs. Jermain Taylor)
Emanuel Clottey (vs. Antonio Margarito)
Lamon Brewster (vs. Sergei Liakhovich)
Carlos Baldomir (vs. everyone he fought)

Most Improved Fighter Award
Peter Manfredo

Gene Tunney Distinguished Champion Award
Joe Calzaghe

Tap Tap Makathini Name Of The Year
Parkpoom Jangphonak

Azumah Nelson "Where'd He Come From?" Trophy
Nobuo Nashiro (KO 10 Martin Castillo)
Omar Nino (W 12 Brian Viloria)
Eric Aiken (KO 6 Tim Austin)
Takashi Koshimoto (W 12 Injin Chi)
Rodolfo Lopez (KO 7 Takashi Koshimoto)

TV Mismatches Of The Year
Paul Williams KO 6 Santos Pakau (HBO PPV)
Paul Williams KO 4 Sharmba Mitchell (HBO)
Rock Allen KO 1 Mike Walker (ESPN2)
Andre Berto KO 3 Gerardo Prieto (ESPN2)
Anthony Peterson KO 2 Jose Soto (ESPN2)
Ishe Smith KO 2 Oscar Gonzalez (Telefutura)
Oscar Larios KO 4 Roberto Bonilla (Telefutura)

Never-In-A-Bad-Fight Purple Heart
Manny Pacquiao, Mahyar Monshipour, Jose Armando Santa Cruz, Israel Vazquez, Tomasz Adamek, Paul Briggs, Kermit Cintron

Best Tiny Man In Elevator Shoes
Vic Darchinyan

Rip-Off-The-Public Non-Effort Of The Year
Fres Oquendo (vs. Evander Holyfield)
Dominick Guinn & Audley Harrison (vs. each other)
Acelino Freitas & Zahir Raheem (vs. each other)

Steve Martin Arrow-Through-Head Ridiculous Gimmick
Floyd Mayweather's gladiator garb (including fake metal chest muscles) for his fight with Carlos Baldomir

Mando Muniz "If At First You Don't Succeed" Persistence Award
Clinton Woods, Oleg Maskaev

Yogi Berra "It's Not Over Till It's Over" Resiliency Award
David Diaz (KO 10 Jose Armando Santa Cruz)
Israel Vazquez (KO 10 Jhonny Gonzalez)
Joey Spina (KO 11 Jesse Brinkley)
Oleg Maskaev (KO 12 Hasim Rahman)
Shannon Briggs (KO 12 Sergei Liakhovich)
Jose Hernandez (KO 8 Jason Litzau)

Facial Monstrosity Of The Year Golden Enswell
Fernando Vargas (vs. Shane Mosley, first fight)

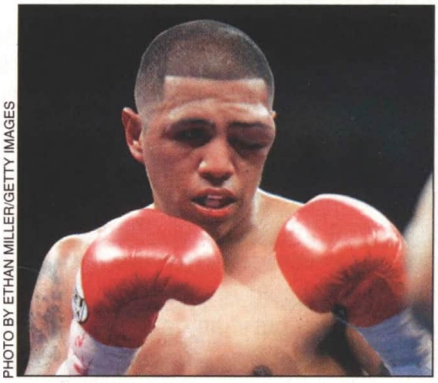


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Mosley turned Vargas unto a Cyclops

Dave Tiberi Disappearing Fighter Award
Robbie Peden, Guillermo Jones, Riddick Bowe

Emile Griffith "Steady If Unspectacular" Trophy
Zsolt Erdei, Verno Phillips, Chris John, Ivan Calderon

Gerry Cooney Proper Pigmentation Award
Roman Greenberg ■

"BEST FIGHTER" POLL

A Survey Of The Experts

For the first time in six years each expert in our annual "Best Fighter" Poll selected only two names for the numbers one and two positions. Floyd Mayweather keeps his hold of the number-one position for the second straight year, however tenuously, over hard-charging Manny Pacquiao.

"Pretty Boy" received seven out of a possible 10 first-place votes, and three second-place votes. Pacquiao received three first-place votes and seven second-place votes. The 12-point difference marks the narrowest margin since Trinidad reached the pinnacle in '00 over Shane Mosley by 126-123. Before that, you'd have to go back to 1997 the find the slightest difference, when Oscar De La Hoya reigned supreme, barely edging Roy Jones (123-117).

While Mayweather rules again, the poll also welcomes back a few fighters who weren't on the list in '05.

Bernard Hopkins used to be a staple in the pound-for-pound poll, making it six straight years, since 1999. After a pair of setbacks to Jermain Taylor in '05, Hopkins' streak ended. But "The Executioner" roared back in '06, garnering the 10th slot, thanks to his dominant victory over Antonio Tarver for the light heavyweight championship. It should be noted Hopkins probably could have been higher, but many experts opted not to vote for him, given that Hopkins announced his retirement after the Tarver fight and announced in November that he was coming back to fight in '07.

Shane Mosley also makes a return after a two-year absence, coming in at eight.

This year's poll also marked the debut of Joe Calzaghe, entering at five. Calzaghe is easily the longest-tenured titlist in the top 10 and THE RING's first-ever super middleweight champion, thanks to his 12-round domination of Jeff Lacy, in early-March. Because of that victory, American fight fans—and boxing media—gained a new appreciation of Calzaghe's brilliance.

This year's panel: Showtime's *ShoBox* blow-by-blow announcer Nick Charles, Fox Sports Net boxing analyst Rich Marotta, ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights* blow-by-blow announcer Joe Tessitore, ESPN.com boxing writer Dan Rafael, WFAN 660 AM radio host Tony Paige, *Contender II* winner Grady Brewer, Telefutura boxing analyst Bernardo Osuna, President of the Boxing Writer's Association of America and boxing writer for *The Buffalo News* Tim Graham, and boxing writer for *The Herald News (N.J.)* Keith Idec.

To compile the standings, we awarded points for each vote a fighter received: 15 points for a first place vote, 12 for a second-place vote, nine for a third-place vote, seven for a fourth-place vote, six for a fifth-place vote, five for a sixth-place vote, four for a seventh-place vote, three for an eighth-place vote, two for a ninth-place vote, and one for a 10th-place vote.

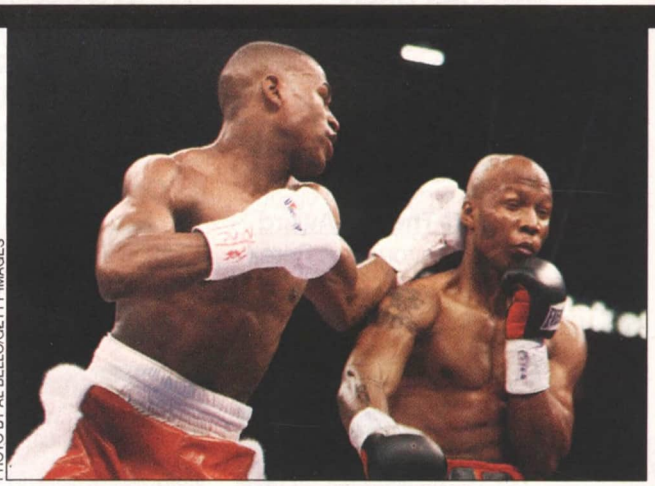


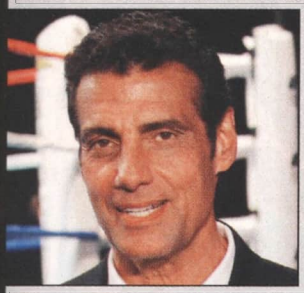
PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Floyd Mayweather's left hand punishes Judah

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Manny Pacquiao's potent left stuns Morales

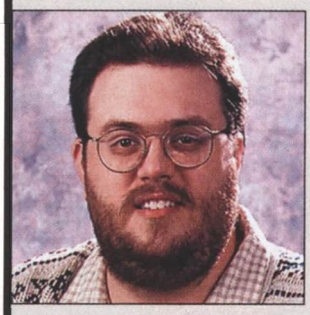
Nick Charles



1. Floyd Mayweather
2. Manny Pacquiao
3. Jermain Taylor
4. Joe Calzaghe
5. Winky Wright
6. Oscar De La Hoya
7. Shane Mosley
8. Wladimir Klitschko
9. Miguel Cotto
10. Arthur Abraham

"Mayweather is so accomplished that every opponent is in a fight he can't win. Pacquiao's dismantling of Erik Morales demonstrated he's now got a crushing right hook to go with that vaunted straight left. Taylor's passed some major exams. He hasn't blown any major fighters away, but he's beaten Hopkins twice and fought to a draw against Winky Wright."

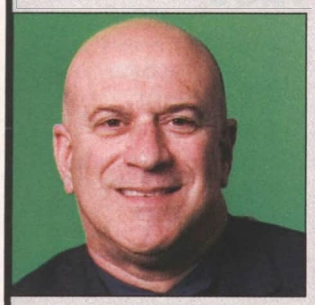
Dan Rafael



1. Floyd Mayweather
2. Manny Pacquiao
3. Winky Wright
4. Jermain Taylor
5. Marco Antonio Barrera
6. Rafael Marquez
7. Jose Luis Castillo
8. Joe Calzaghe
9. Shane Mosley
10. Oscar De La Hoya

"As far as Mayweather goes, I think it's very clear that he's the most talented fighter in the world. I have no problem putting Castillo in the top 10, because he has a great body of work. With regard to Oscar, I always had him on the fringes of the top 10. He deserves it. I would have Bernard Hopkins high up on the list, but I dropped him out when he announced his retirement. Once he actually announces a fight, I'd place him immediately in the top 10."

Rich Marotta



1. Manny Pacquiao
2. Floyd Mayweather
3. Winky Wright
4. Joe Calzaghe
5. Rafael Marquez
6. Marco Antonio Barrera
7. Jermain Taylor
8. Juan Manual Marquez
9. Ricky Hatton
10. Oscar De La Hoya

"I have had Mayweather number-one until recently, when I moved Manny up there. It's not that Floyd did anything wrong, but Pacquiao has it all. He's so exciting and he's not afraid to fight anyone. He has the hand speed and the power to go with it. That's where Floyd comes off suffering a little. Mayweather is no less of a fighter than he was a year ago; I just think Pacquiao has passed him.

Tony Paige

1. Floyd Mayweather
2. Manny Pacquiao
3. Joe Calzaghe
4. Winky Wright
5. Shane Mosley
6. Oscar De La Hoya
7. Miguel Cotto
8. Marco Antonio Barrera
9. Isreal Vazquez
10. Vic Darchinyan

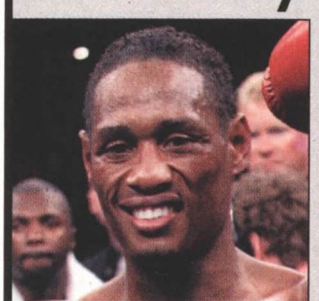
"The only one who can beat Mayweather is Mayweather. Pacquiao is the most exciting fighter in the world today. Calzaghe is one of those guys you can't overlook. American writers always have a bias against European fighters, but Calzaghe just keeps winning. Cotto looks good at welterweight, and lighter guys, like Vazquez and Darchinyan, deserve attention."

Joe Tessitore

1. Manny Pacquiao
2. Floyd Mayweather
3. Winky Wright
4. Jose Luis Castillo
5. Joe Calzaghe
6. Rafael Marquez
7. Ricky Hatton
8. Marco Antonio Barrera
9. Jermain Taylor
10. Miguel Cotto

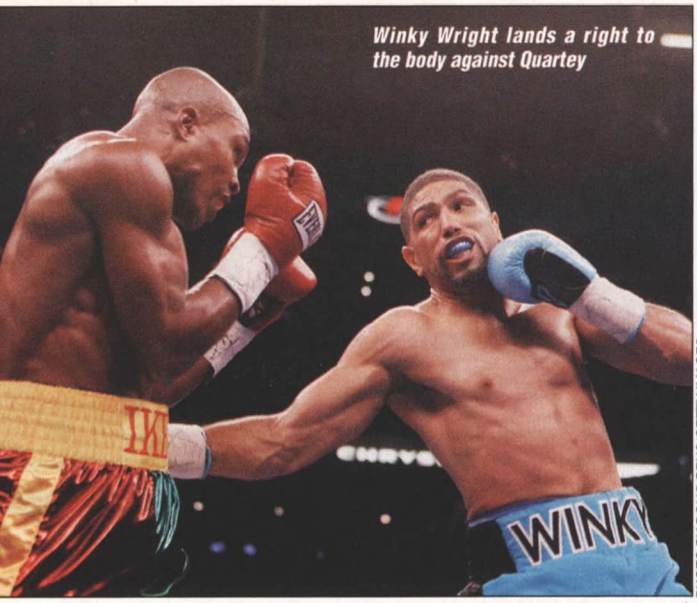
"I know if you could quantify it, Floyd likely has more talent than Pacquiao. However, I do know something that there is no question about: Pac-Man's results against a far higher level of opposition get him the nod. And for what it's worth, Pacquiao is the best offensive fighter in the game, bar none. Floyd's weak competition has to be marked against him. I know I'll take heat for Castillo being so high, and Taylor being low, but all I know is what I see in the ring."

Grady Brewer



1. Floyd Mayweather
2. Manny Pacquiao
3. Jermain Taylor
4. Winky Wright
5. Shane Mosley
6. Ricky Hatton
7. Bernard Hopkins
8. Joe Calzaghe
9. Rafael Marquez
10. Marco Antonio Barrera

"From what I see of Mayweather, he's been dominant. Then you have Jermain, who's beaten Hopkins and fought to a draw with Winky Wright. Pacquiao has had a nice year, and he's the most exciting fighter to watch. Barrera impressed me by going back and beating Rocky Juarez a second time."



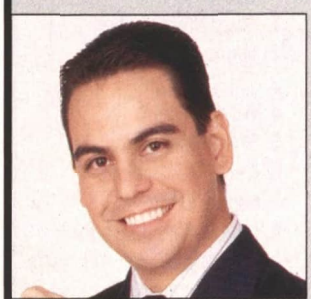
Winky Wright lands a right to the body against Quartey

PHOTO BY DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES

Joe Calzaghe swells up Lacy

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Bernardo Osuna



1. Manny Pacquiao
2. Floyd Mayweather
3. Jermain Taylor
4. Winky Wright
5. Joe Calzaghe
6. Miguel Cotto
7. Ricky Hatton
8. Juan Diaz
9. Isreal Vazquez
10. Rafael Marquez

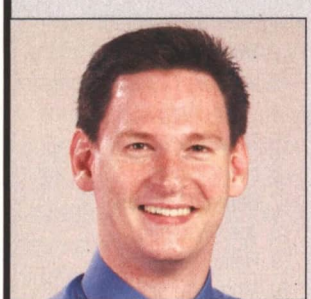
"Beating one of the finest fighters Mexico has ever produced puts Pacquiao on top, as far I'm concerned. Floyd beat two name fighters, but Floyd beat Judah, and Baldomir beat Judah. That took some luster off what Floyd did this year. Winky is not the most exciting fighter, but he is productive. Cotto is a rising star and a force to be reckoned with, dispelling a lot of questions at 147 pounds."

Keith Idec

1. Floyd Mayweather
2. Manny Pacquiao
3. Winky Wright
4. Jermain Taylor
5. Bernard Hopkins
6. Marco Antonio Barrera
7. Joe Calzaghe
8. Ricky Hatton
9. Joel Casamayor
10. Shane Mosley

"Pacquiao's performances against Erik Morales and Oscar Larios in 2006 earned him the second spot over Wright, who's listed third on this list because he beat Taylor on my scorecard. Hopkins is fifth because it seems safe to assume he is still an active fighter. Hatton should shine again at 140 pounds. Accurately crediting Casamayor is long overdue, especially since his three defeats were all at least debatable decisions."

Tim Graham



1. Floyd Mayweather
2. Manny Pacquiao
3. Winky Wright
4. Jermain Taylor
5. Jose Luis Castillo
6. Rafael Marquez
7. Marco Antonio Barrera
8. Joe Calzaghe
9. Ricky Hatton
10. Shane Mosley

"Mayweather clearly is in a class by himself. After that, I see a grouping of Pacquiao, Wright, and Taylor. The next five or six on my list can be shuffled without much argument. Oscar De La Hoya is noticeably absent because he has won only two of four fights in three-plus years."

The Ring

1. Floyd Mayweather
2. Manny Pacquiao
3. Winky Wright
4. Jermain Taylor
5. Bernard Hopkins
6. Marco Antonio Barrera
7. Rafael Marquez
8. Ricky Hatton
9. Jose Luis Castillo
10. Joe Calzaghe

"Mayweather maintains his position as the top fighter in the world, but that position is tenuous at best in 2007. Whereas there was little doubt Mayweather stood above everyone else this time last year, Pacquiao has made things interesting. Though his all-action style is appealing to fans, it was his two-time domination of Erik Morales that keeps Pac-Man on the heels of Pretty Boy."

THE RESULTS

1. Floyd Mayweather—141
2. Manny Pacquiao—129
3. Winky Wright—81
4. Jermain Taylor—61
5. Joe Calzaghe—49
6. Rafael Marquez—28
7. Ricky Hatton—23
8. Shane Mosley—20
9. Jose Luis Castillo—19
10. Bernard Hopkins—16

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES

Oscar De La Hoya—12
Miguel Cotto—12
Isreal Vazquez—4
Juan Manuel Marquez—4
Juan Diaz—3
Wladimir Klitschko—3
Joel Casamayor—2
Vic Darchinyan—1
Arthur Abraham—1

2005 POLL

1. Floyd Mayweather—144 points
2. Winky Wright—113
3. Marco Antonio Barrera—70
4. Juan Manuel Marquez—43
5. Rafael Marquez—39
6. Ricky Hatton—38
7. Jose Luis Castillo—36
8. Jermain Taylor—34
9. Zab Judah—31
10. Antonio Tarver—30

2004 POLL

1. Bernard Hopkins—150 points
2. Floyd Mayweather—111
3. Kostya Tszyu—88
4. Winky Wright—70
5. Marco Antonio Barrera—52
6. Manny Pacquiao—38
7. Erik Morales—26
8. Juan Manuel Marquez—25
9. Felix Trinidad—22
10. Diego Corrales—11 (tie)
10. Rafael Marquez—11 (tie)

2003 POLL

1. Roy Jones—142
2. Bernard Hopkins—114
3. Floyd Mayweather—97
4. Shane Mosley—53
5. Kostya Tszyu—48
6. Oscar De La Hoya—45
7. Manny Pacquiao—38
8. James Toney—35
9. Erik Morales—31
10. Lennox Lewis—22

2002 POLL

1. Roy Jones—135
2. Oscar De La Hoya—89
3. Marco Antonio Barrera—78 (tie)
3. Vernon Forrest—78 (tie)
3. Bernard Hopkins—78 (tie)
6. Floyd Mayweather—45
7. Lennox Lewis—43
8. Kostya Tszyu—42
9. Erik Morales—25
10. Shane Mosley—13

2001 POLL

1. Shane Mosley—132
2. Roy Jones—108
3. Bernard Hopkins—98
4. Floyd Mayweather—77
5. Marco Antonio Barrera—44
6. Oscar De La Hoya—40
7. Felix Trinidad—39
8. Kostya Tszyu—34
9. Lennox Lewis—23
10. Ricardo Lopez—22

2000 POLL

1. Felix Trinidad—126
2. Shane Mosley—123
3. Roy Jones—109
4. Oscar De La Hoya—43
5. Floyd Mayweather—39
6. Naseem Hamed—37
7. Ricardo Lopez—35
8. Diego Corrales—33
9. Bernard Hopkins—32
10. Lennox Lewis—31

1999 POLL

1. Roy Jones—150
2. Oscar De La Hoya—85
3. Floyd Mayweather—78
4. Shane Mosley—68 (tie)
4. Felix Trinidad—68 (tie)
6. Mark Johnson—47 (tie)
6. Ricardo Lopez—47 (tie)
8. Erik Morales—21
9. Bernard Hopkins—16
10. Fernando Vargas—15

1998 POLL

1. Roy Jones—141
2. Oscar De La Hoya—123
3. Felix Trinidad—67
4. Shane Mosley—65
5. Evander Holyfield—55
6. Mark Johnson—45
7. Naseem Hamed—33
8. Ricardo Lopez—23
9. Floyd Mayweather—19
10. Pernell Whitaker—14

1997 POLL

1. Oscar De La Hoya—123
2. Roy Jones—117
3. Ricardo Lopez—83
4. Evander Holyfield—80
5. Felix Trinidad—65
6. Pernell Whitaker—37
7. Naseem Hamed—28
8. Mark Johnson—22 (tie)
8. Junior Jones—22 (tie)
10. Johnny Tapia—18

1996 POLL

1. Roy Jones—123
2. Oscar De La Hoya—107
3. Pernell Whitaker—92
4. Evander Holyfield—64
5. Felix Trinidad—59
6. Ricardo Lopez—56
7. Terry Norris—28
8. Ike Quartey—21
9. Azumah Nelson—12
10. Yuri Arbachakov—11

1995 POLL

1. Roy Jones—138
2. Pernell Whitaker—126
3. Oscar De La Hoya—74
4. Felix Trinidad—59
5. Marco Antonio Barrera—48
6. Riddick Bowe—44
7. Ricardo Lopez—37
8. Julio Cesar Chavez—18
9. Ike Quartey—16
10. Naseem Hamed—12

1994 POLL

1. Pernell Whitaker—130
2. Roy Jones—129
3. Frankie Randall—53
4. Ricardo Lopez—45
5. Orlando Canizales—39
6. Chiquita Gonzalez—38
7. James Toney—36
8. Gerald McClellan—33
9. Felix Trinidad—29
10. Kevin Kelley—28

1993 POLL

1. Pernell Whitaker—147
2. Julio Cesar Chavez—86
3. Terry Norris—84
4. James Toney—76
5. Michael Carbajal—39
6. Evander Holyfield—36
7. Buddy McGirt—28
8. Roy Jones—23
9. Orlando Canizales—22
10. Ricardo Lopez—21

1992 POLL

1. Julio Cesar Chavez—136
2. Terry Norris—91
3. Pernell Whitaker—85
4. Buddy McGirt—60
5. Riddick Bowe—45
6. Orlando Canizales—36
7. Azumah Nelson—34
8. Lennox Lewis—24
9. Julian Jackson—18
10. Roy Jones—15 (tie)
10. Mike McCallum—15 (tie)

1991 POLL

1. Julio Cesar Chavez—138
2. Pernell Whitaker—100
3. Evander Holyfield—78
4. Mike Tyson—55
5. Meldrick Taylor—48
6. Mike McCallum—38
7. Thomas Hearns—34
8. Khaosai Galaxy—25
9. Terry Norris—22
10. Simon Brown—21

1990 POLL

1. Julio Cesar Chavez—123
2. Pernell Whitaker—104
3. Mike Tyson—71
4. Meldrick Taylor—57
5. Buster Douglas—51
6. Simon Brown—27
7. Antonio Esparragoza—25
8. Michael Nunn—23
9. Evander Holyfield—21
10. Humberto Gonzalez—14

1989 POLL

1. Mike Tyson—147
2. Julio Cesar Chavez—91
3. Meldrick Taylor—61
4. Michael Nunn—60
5. Evander Holyfield—56
6. Pernell Whitaker—46
7. Ray Leonard—28
8. Jeff Fenech—27
9. Azumah Nelson—18
10. Marlon Starling—16

1988 POLL

1. Mike Tyson—144
2. Julio Cesar Chavez—118
3. Evander Holyfield—66
4. Ray Leonard—55
5. Jeff Fenech—44
6. Michael Nunn—33
7. Azumah Nelson—32
8. Jung Koo Chang—23
9. Buddy McGirt—21
10. Sumbu Kalambay—18

NO POLL IN 1987

1986 POLL

1. Marvin Hagler—138
2. Mike Tyson—92
3. Donald Curry—59
4. Thomas Hearns—52
5. Edwin Rosario—47
6. Azumah Nelson—45 (tie)
6. Michael Spinks—45 (tie)
8. Evander Holyfield—32
9. Julio Cesar Chavez—26
10. Hector Camacho—22

1985 POLL

1. Marvin Hagler—150
2. Hector Camacho—86
3. Michael Spinks—85
4. Donald Curry—78
5. Thomas Hearns—42
6. Barry McGuigan—32
7. Milton McCrory—25
8. Julio Cesar Chavez—22 (tie)
8. Pinklon Thomas—22 (tie)
10. Larry Holmes—21

1984 POLL

1. Marvin Hagler—112
2. Aaron Pryor—77
3. Larry Holmes—72
4. Eusebio Pedroza—66
5. Hector Camacho—50
6. Jeff Chandler—47 (tie)
6. Ray Leonard—47 (tie)
8. Michael Spinks—45
9. Thomas Hearns—34
10. Donald Curry—26

1983 POLL

1. Marvin Hagler—147
2. Aaron Pryor—93
3. Larry Holmes—91
4. Michael Spinks—66
5. Jeff Chandler—57
6. Thomas Hearns—45
7. Alexis Arguello—29
8. Wilfredo Gomez—28
9. Hector Camacho—24
10. Eusebio Pedroza—12

1982 POLL

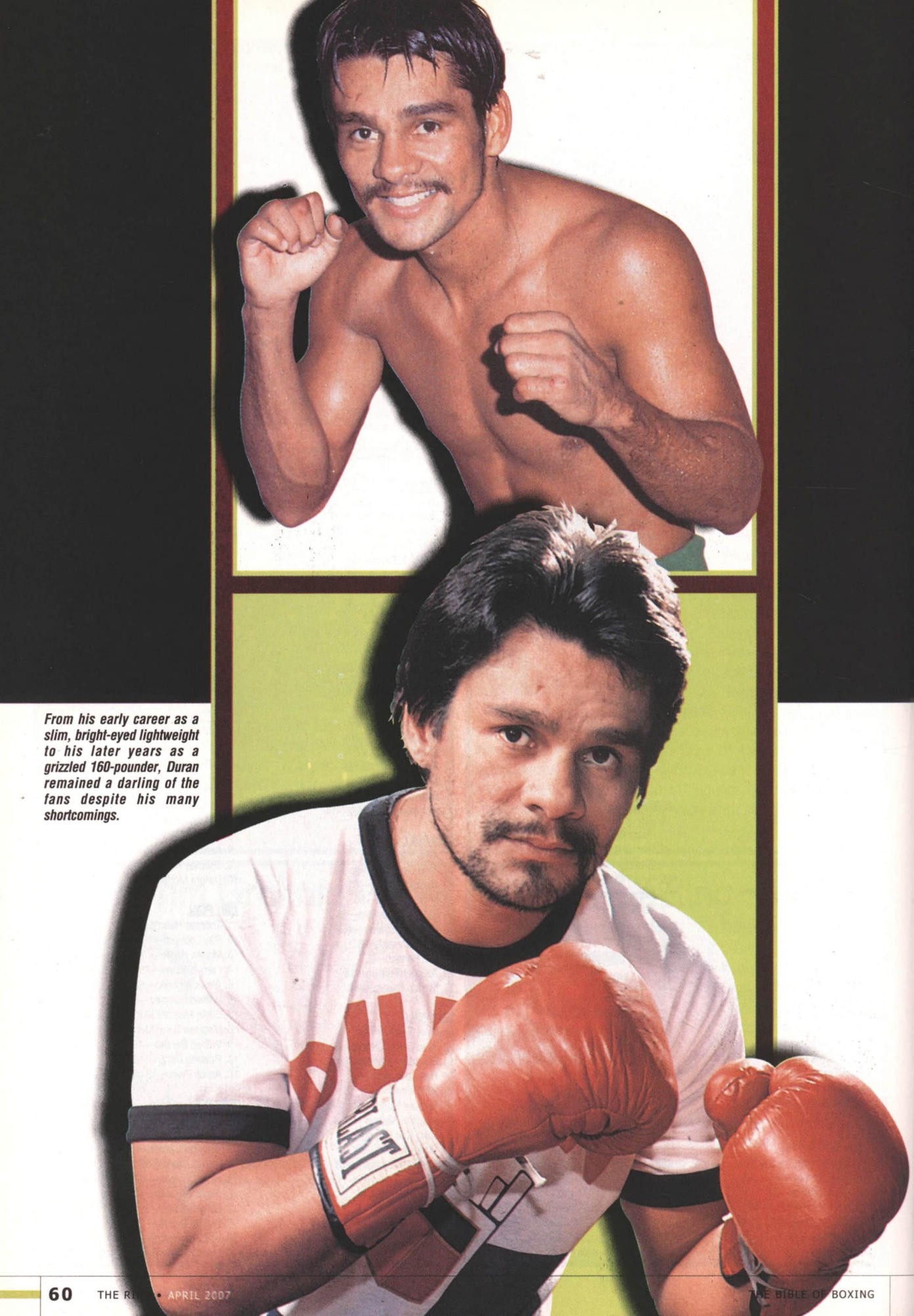
1. Ray Leonard—142
2. Alexis Arguello—97
3. Marvin Hagler—76
4. Salvador Sanchez—72
5. Wilfred Benitez—68
6. Larry Holmes—61
7. Jeff Chandler—25
8. Eusebio Pedroza—18
9. Aaron Pryor—17
10. Thomas Hearns—14 (tie)
10. Dwight Muhammad Qawi—14 (tie)

1981 POLL

1. Thomas Hearns—116
2. Ray Leonard—108
3. Marvin Hagler—76
4. Larry Holmes—75
5. Alexis Arguello—62
6. Wilfredo Gomez—58
7. Eddie Mustafa Muhammad—28
8. Matthew Saad Muhammad—24
9. Wilfred Benitez—18
10. Roberto Duran—13 (tie)
10. Aaron Pryor—13 (tie)

1980 POLL

1. Roberto Duran—96
2. Ray Leonard—93
3. Wilfredo Gomez—88
4. Danny Lopez—65
5. Pipino Cuevas—54
6. Alexis Arguello—40
7. Larry Holmes—32
8. Wilfred Benitez—26
9. Vito Antuofermo—25 (tie)
9. Matthew Saad Muhammad—25 (tie)



From his early career as a slim, bright-eyed lightweight to his later years as a grizzled 160-pounder, Duran remained a darling of the fans despite his many shortcomings.

WHY WE LOVE HIM

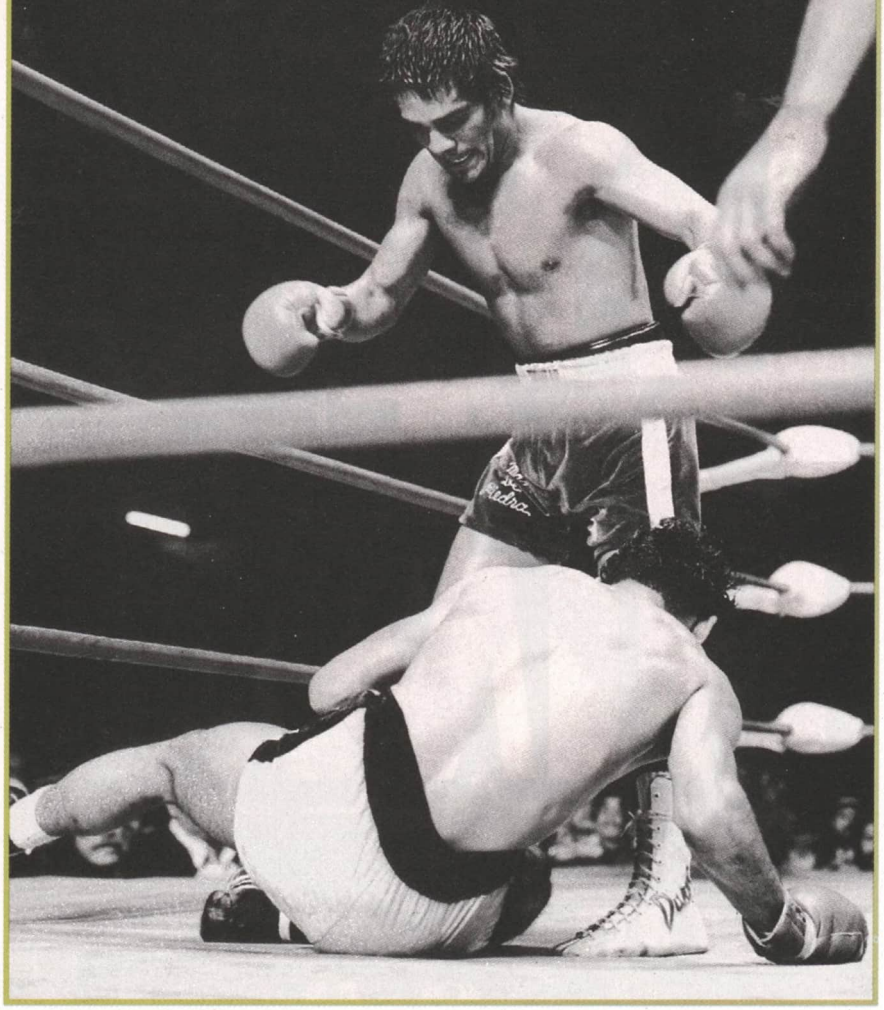
As Duran Enters The Hall, Bad Memories Are Left Behind

By William Dettloff

Roberto Duran will be formally inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June, and assuming he attends, his induction will receive the loudest cheers and longest ovations of any heard all weekend—even if those who understand no Spanish will have not the foggiest idea what he's saying in the speech that follows.

The reception will easily surpass in volume and sentiment the output that greets the speeches of fellow inductees Ricardo Lopez and Pernell Whitaker, both of whom probably equal Duran in ring skill and dominance, fall far short of him in number of sins committed against the fight game, and yet are far less beloved.

Indeed, the ambivalence held by many fans toward Lopez, a brilliant, tiny oddball of a Mexican star who eschewed the fighters' diet of whores, alcohol, and gambling in favor of cerebral pursuits involving poetry and philosophers, and Whitaker, always an abrasive, surly little bastard in spite of, or maybe because of his ring brilliance, will only serve to amplify the difference: Lopez and Whitaker will receive polite, measured,



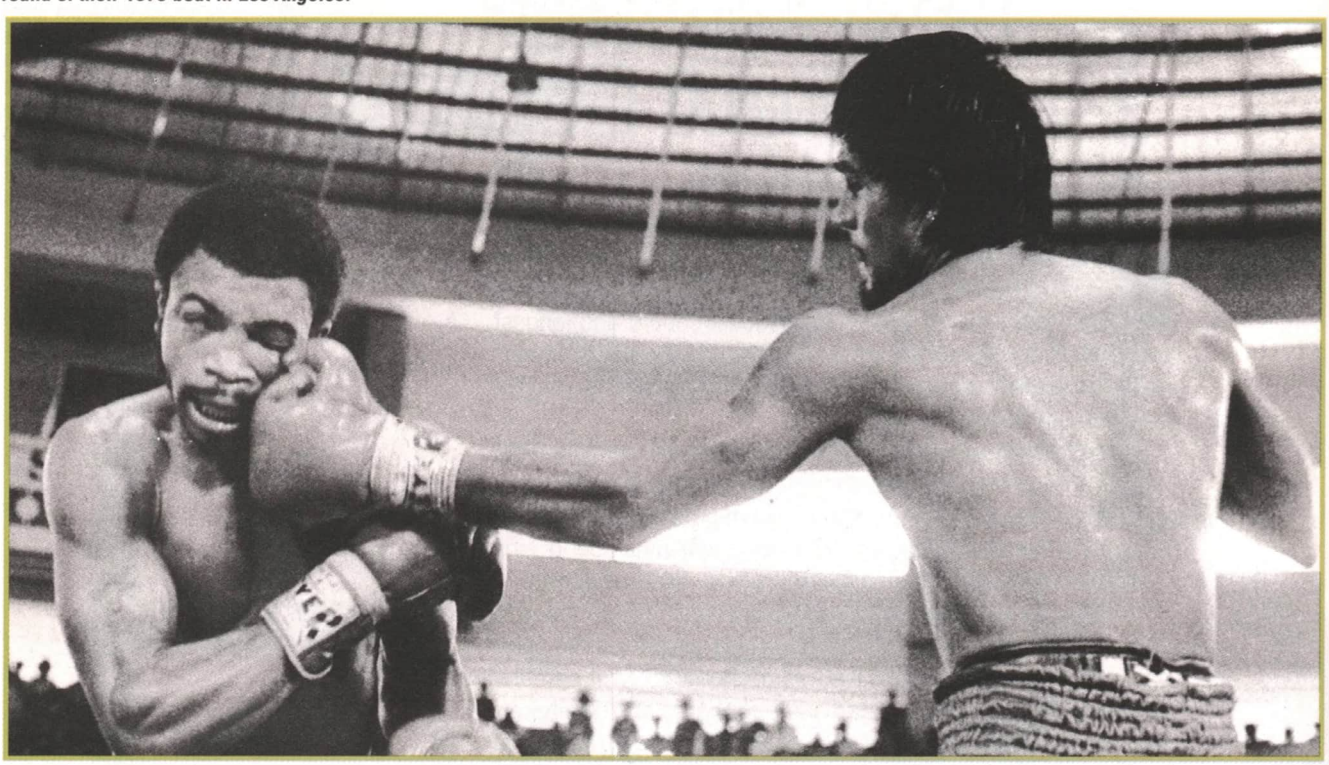
Duran was undoubtedly at his best during his years as lightweight champion, a rampaging force that destroyed virtually all in his path, including Juan Medina, who was kayoed in the seventh round of their 1973 bout in Los Angeles.

appreciative applause. They deserve at least as much.

Duran's ovation will rock the hamlet of Canastota, New York, to its quaint little core. (And will feature the same unanimity, one would imagine, as that comprising the cacophony of jeers we hope will hound at every turn fellow inductee Jose Sulaiman; but that's a story for another day.)

Yet neither Lopez nor Whitaker ever said "No mas" in the middle of the biggest fight of his career, stunning an entire sporting culture, for the echoes of Duran's submission against Ray Leonard, his bitterest rival, carried far beyond boxing's jagged borders. It introduced "no mas" to the American lexicon.

It wasn't as though we could justify Duran's enormous emotional failure in New Orleans in November 1980 the way we could Jake LaMotta throwing his fight against Billy Fox; it was the only way LaMotta could get a title shot. Fighters quit all the time in the ring, but we can forgive it on the spot, if the right circumstances exist. Duran's capitulation was far worse than Max Baer quitting against Joe Louis, for example; Louis had all but brained him moments before. Duran was merely being outboxed and taunt-



Duran tags Ray Lampkin with a left en route to a savage 14th-round knockout victory that sent Lampkin to the hospital, but still wasn't definitive enough to please Duran. It was his sixth defense of the lightweight title.

ed. His was a failure of will, of ego and constitution, and made everything he had accomplished up to that point look like the cheap work of a common bully.

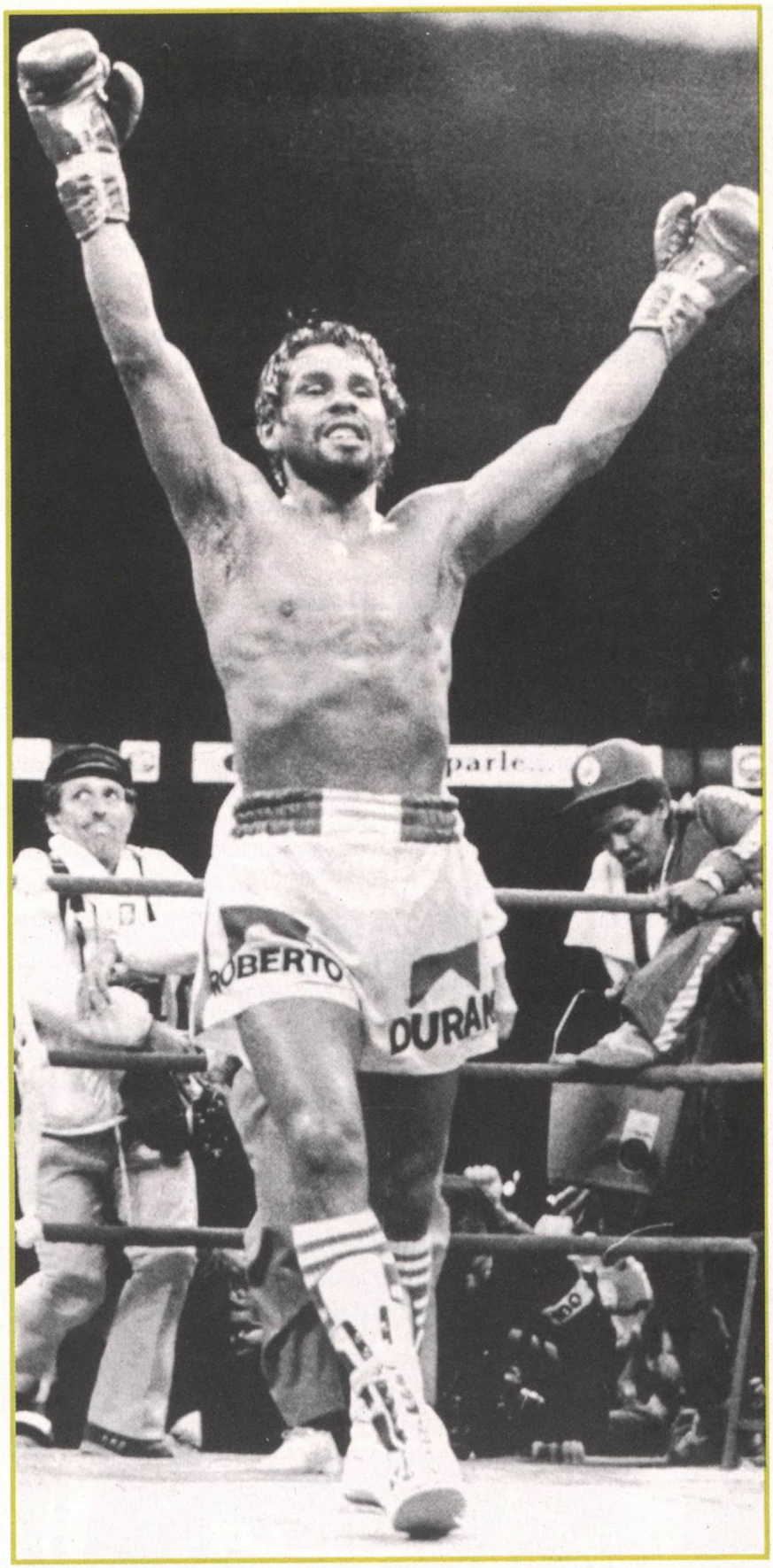
Yet we have forgiven Duran, all of us have, and we have a love for him that, as compared to his contemporaries and those who came a full generation after he was in steep decline, like Lopez and Whitaker, can be difficult to justify or explain. It cannot be explained by his prowess in the ring alone, for certainly fighters such as Lopez and Whitaker did about as much and are as accomplished. Indeed, Duran wasn't even the most successful fighter of his era.

You can argue that his era really was the 1970s, and it's true that during that period, when he was at his terrible best, you could flip a coin to decide who was the best fighter in the world, he or the great Carlos Monzon. But we would do well to recall that Duran made the choice to fight at welterweight and beyond, and ultimately fighters only can be judged on whom they whipped and who whipped them in return. Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns, Wilfred Benitez, and a few others all beat Duran. Hearns nearly killed him.

It is easily conceded, though, that Duran was a brilliant fighter—in his prime and even well after.

"There wasn't anything Duran couldn't do in the ring," Hall of Fame trainer and manager Gil Clancy told THE RING in December, shortly after the announcement came that Duran would be inducted. It was against Clancy's fighter, Ken Buchanan, that Duran won the WBA lightweight title in 1972. "Anything you wanted him to do he could do: turn around and box southpaw, go after a guy, it didn't matter. And he was a hell of a puncher. Anything and everything—he could do it all."

What Clancy recalls is true, but it doesn't explain Duran's enduring popularity. Perfectly brilliant, inoffensive fighters have been forgotten by the dozens over the years, their brilliant corpses anonymously and peacefully clogging up cemeteries and mausoleums the way their ring exploits once filled up seats in arenas and fight clubs. Brilliance in the prize ring appeals strongly only to those so deeply invested in the business that



Duran celebrates his 1980 victory over Sugar Ray Leonard to win the WBC welterweight title in Montreal. It was one of Duran's greatest triumphs, but six month later, he lost to Leonard in the disgraceful "No mas" fight. Duran also lost their 1989 rubber match.

they have little influence elsewhere, so their voices and numbers are small. Duran is loved by all.

It never was as though Duran courted this affection from the masses. In his prime, his postfight comments usually centered on how badly he wanted to hurt his opponent and regardless of how successful he'd been in that regard, it never seemed enough afterward. He always gave the impression he'd be willing to take on a few fans on the way back to the locker room if any would have him.

He didn't engage in baby-kissing exhibitions, or in flashing infectious smiles full of straight, even, blinding teeth. To the contrary, he went frequently, though quite naturally, to great lengths to be the antithesis to Leonard's all-American boy image. One could make the argument that that was a marketing ploy, that he was cast as the villain as a means to increase the gate for the Leonard fights. But Leonard was nowhere to be found when Duran spoke, famously now, of putting poor Ray Lampkin in the hospital as a failure, and that if he'd only been in better shape, Lampkin would have been in the morgue.

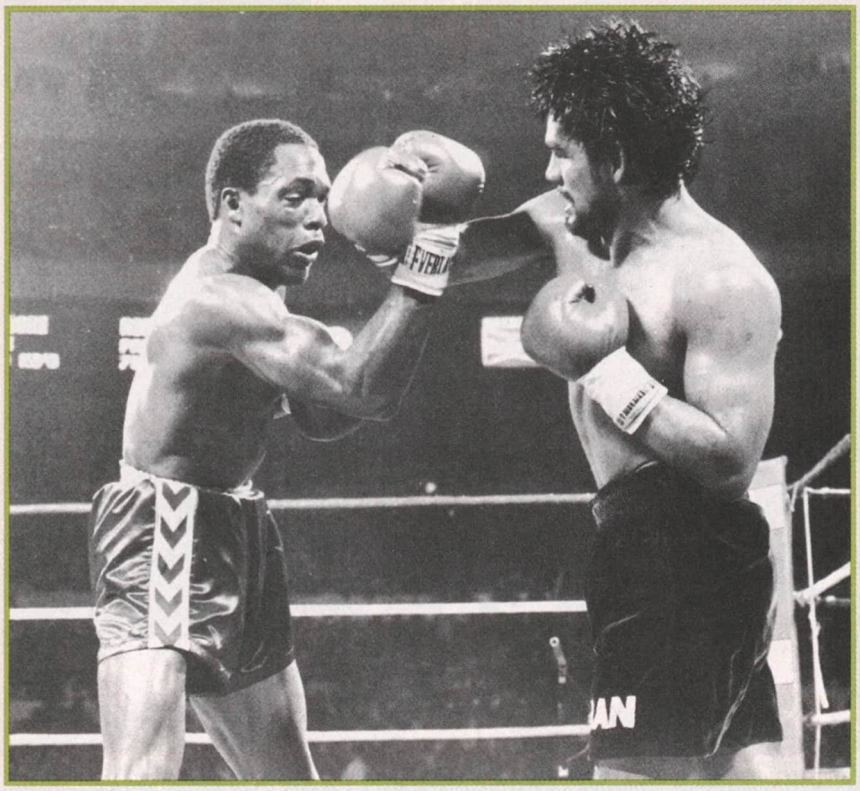
This was no Ricardo Mayorga press conference trashtalk. Duran was one nasty son-of-a-bitch in the ring and around it too—but in a charming way. When asked once how he would do in a streetfight against Muhammad Ali, Duran sneered, "I beat the s___ out of him."

There has been too, especially later in his career when he became less threatening, a kind of lovable scamp persona that Duran adopted, probably quite by accident. It's the same vibe given off by the actor Jack Nicholson. In many ways, Duran is a kind of a Nicholson for the fight game, the lovable ne'er-do-well (once dangerous but not anymore) who, when we see him, compels us to smile broadly, point and say his name out loud, like he's an old, dear acquaintance. And he is, even if we've never met him

Today, Nicholson can waddle around on the sets of horrid films, a bloated memory of what he used to be, and still we love and revere him for what he was back then and also for the presence he retains. Duran, later on, could lose to

Duran's Greatest Hits

When a fighter has won in the ring 103 times, it shouldn't be hard to identify his five most memorable triumphs. With Duran, it's easier than most. Here they are, in chronological order.



Moore took a nasty pounding from Duran in '83

KO 12 Esteban DeJesus, January 21, 1978: Before Sugar Ray Leonard, DeJesus was the thorn in Duran's side, and their rubber match/lightweight unification fight in Las Vegas removed all doubt around who was better. Duran started slowly and patiently broke down DeJesus, largely to the body. His final bout at 135 probably was his most complete.

W 15 Sugar Ray Leonard, June 20, 1980: Listen up: It doesn't matter that Leonard chose to fight the wrong fight in Montreal. That's called being undisciplined. Leonard was bigger, faster, younger, and fresher. Duran simply outsmarted him, out-toughed him, and outfought him, and 46,317 fans saw it. It also lent Duran unofficial recognition as the best fighter in the world, pound-for-pound, and landed him the WBC welterweight title.

KO 4 Pipino Cuevas January 29, 1983: Take your pick—this or Duran's shutout of the other dominant welter of his period, Carlos Palomino. We like this one because even though Hearns had already ruined Cuevas, Duran used some of the sweetest combinations we've seen to close the show in an important crossroads fight. Besides that, it led to the next fight on this list.

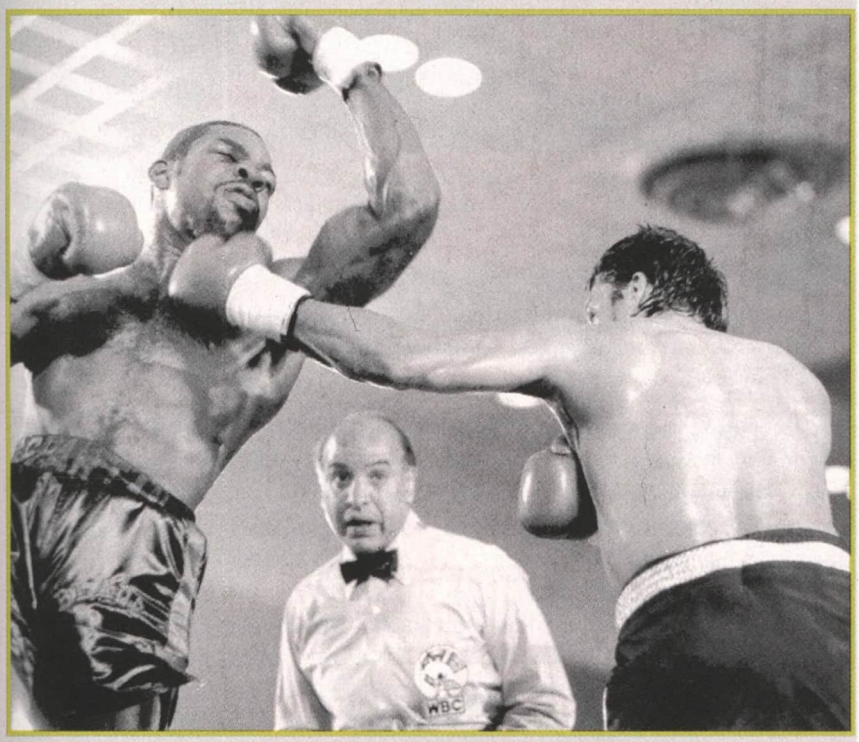
KO 8 Davey Moore June 16, 1983: What more could you ask for than Duran against an under-experienced Moore at a sold-out Madison Square

Hector Camacho and Vinny Pazienza, and we still loved him. He could make us know the names Kirkland Lange and Pat Lawlor and cringe at them and we could get mad at him for not showing up in shape and losing to bums and for fighting on too long. But we never could stay mad at him. Hell, most of us couldn't care less that his first world title was won on a foul. In the end, we could hold none of it against him. He's Duran. No matter how far he fell—and it was far against Leonard and a few other times too—Duran was forgiven. Why is that?

"It wasn't like he was some nothing fighter with no personality that no one cared about," said Don Fraser, who promoted all the biggest fights on the West Coast throughout '70s. "He was a very colorful and charismatic guy. Even though he learned some of it, he never would speak much English, but he related to the fans anyway. He was that kind of fighter."

Still, Duran would have disappeared from our collective consciousness had his comeback after the embarrassment against Leonard gone nowhere. Instead, it was after his lowest point that Duran enjoyed some of his greatest moments *(see sidebar)*. He had to fight, and fight well, to get the stink of New Orleans off of him. And he did.

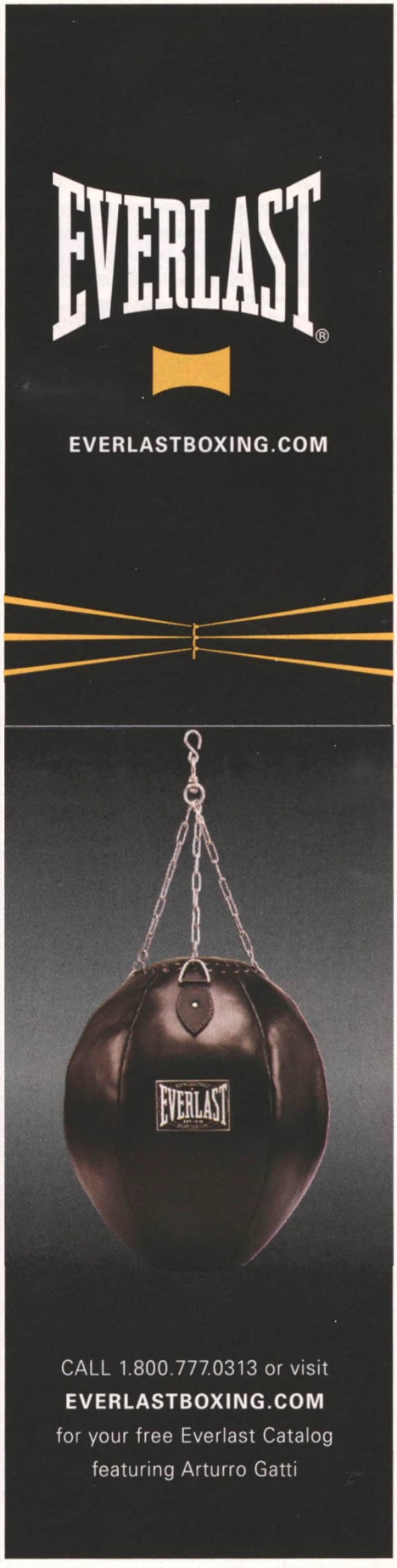
"When he fought Davey Moore and really beat the hell out of him, that put him back in favor with the fans," said Fraser. "He had the Davey Moore fight, he was in it the whole way against



Beating Barkley was Duran's final great performance

Garden, on Duran's 32nd birthday? This was maybe Duran's greatest moment. A 5-2 underdog, he brutalized Moore and claimed the WBA junior middleweight title. And when it was done, the crowd of 20,061 sang "Happy Birthday." This was one of the great moments of the era.

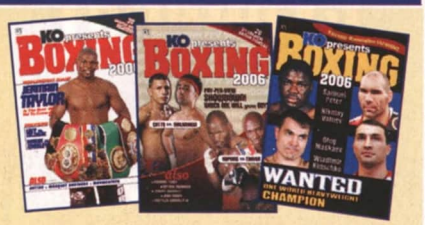
W 12 Iran Barkley February 24, 1989: Understand this: Duran was 37 years old and, at 156 pounds, 21 pounds over his best fighting weight. It had been 17 years since he'd won the lightweight title. And in a thrilling, taut bout that was THE RING's Fight of the Year, he floored Barkley, outfought him, and became the first Latin fighter to win titles in four divisions. It was his final great moment in a prize ring. After this, nothing else mattered.



KO presents BOXING 2006

Back Issues Now Available!

140 pages of the best in boxing journalism by the publishers of THE RING!
Order before supplies are gone!



Volume I, 2006: Middleweight Champ Jermain Taylor—Is The Best Yet To Come?
Also: Ricky Hatton, Mosley-Vargas preview, Floyd Mayweather, Juan Manuel & Rafael Marquez, Joan Guzman, Steve Cunningham, Liston & Louis, 20 greatest Mexicans.

Volume 2, 2006: Pay-Per-View Showdown!
Also: Cotto-Malignaggi preview, Hopkins vs. Tarver preview, Rahman-Toney, Jhonny Gonzalez, John Duddy, Castillo-Corrales III preview, Peter Manfredo, Jeff Lacy, Arthur Abraham, 20 greatest Brits.

Volume 3, 2006: Wanted! One World Heavyweight Champion.
Also: David Diaz, Baldomir-Mayweather preview, Hopkins-Jones, Paul Williams, controversial decisions, Hall of Fame, all-time great boxing columns

Please send me the back issues of KO Presents Boxing: 2006 I have checked below. I have enclosed a check or money order for $8.95, payable to London Publishing Co. (or supplied my credit card information) for each issue I am ordering (shipping and handling included).

☐ Volume 1, 2006
☐ Volume 2, 2006
☐ Volume 3, 2006

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co. Box 910,
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Please indicate method of payment:
☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO / YR

Signature:_____

Name_____

Address_____ Apt.____

City_____ State___ Zip_____

Prices apply in the U.S. only. All other countries please add $1.50 per magazine for surface mail and $3 for every issue sent airmail.. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

7570/11-06

PHOTO BY KEN LEVINE/GETTY IMAGES

A decade after his first two fights with Leonard, Duran trains for a third. Regardless of his setbacks, fans continued to support the Panamanian legend until an auto accident ended his ring career five years ago.

Hagler, and then he beat Iran Barkley. And they were always good fights with Duran. He was a real exciting fighter who always made for good fights. He entertained the fans."

In the ring, Duran was boxing's improv man, bouncing about, feinting, going in and out, always looking for the angle, his wild black hair glistening and bouncing around in all directions. He would improvise mid-combination, start an attack two steps away as a righty, and then be a southpaw when he was on you, digging a right hook under your heart. It's a cliché already to say he was underrated as a technician.

Is the secret to Duran's enduring appeal a matter of simple timing? His linking today's older fans to the last great "Golden Age" of the 1980s? Or is it because he bridges the gap from that generation to an older one, and was so good that even the old-timers who grew up with Ike Williams and Beau Jack respect him? Is that it? Can it simply be that he's what we call today a throwback? No. It's more.

Maybe it's the stories they still tell about Duran, about him knocking out a horse (whether it's true is immaterial), or the one about his impression of his pet lion at the moment of owner-induced ecstasy. Maybe we like it that he got under Leonard's skin the way he did (it was about time someone did), or the way he intimidated even Hagler in their fight. Maybe, in some way too, it was seeing how intimidated and impotent he was against Hearns, when, in a terrible styles matchup that he seemed to recognize the moment they were in the ring together, Duran committed the unforgivable novice's sin of sitting right out at the end of Hearns' punches.

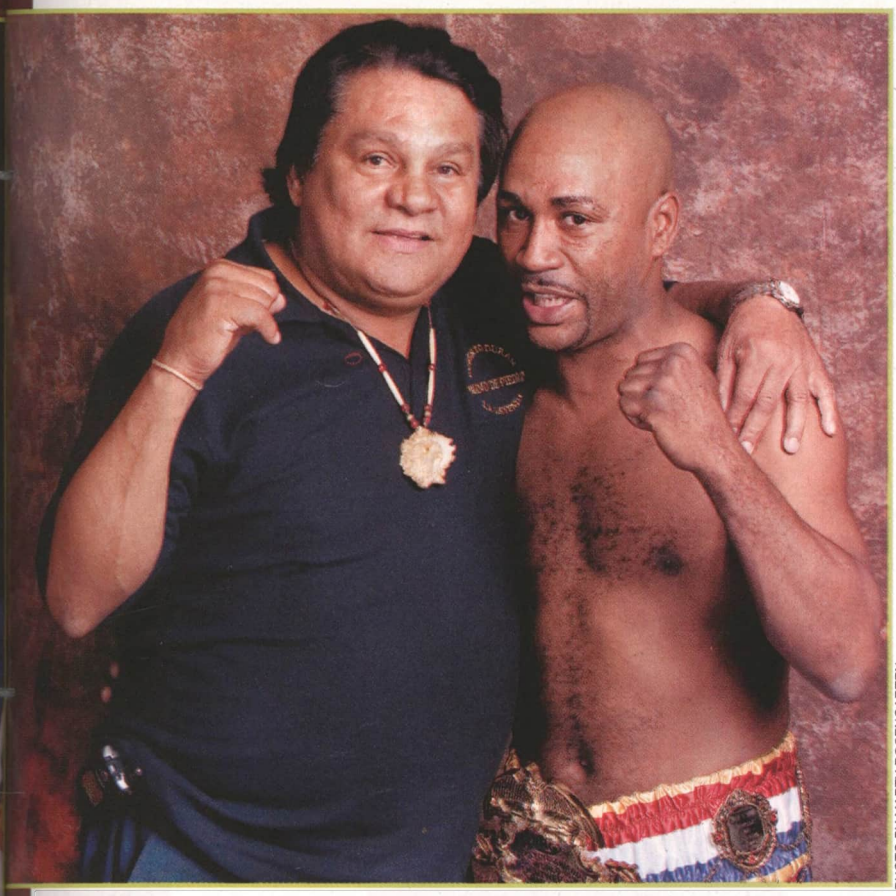


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Today, a fat and friendly Duran is part of the promotional company that handles, among others, world lightweight champion Joel Casamayor.

You never can overestimate the power of redemption either. The wins over Moore and Barkley gave us all a reason to celebrate and that's all most of us want. We all want to believe we too can come back the way Duran did if we should lose our way, as he did against Leonard. He quit without really quitting in their third fight, but his important work was already done.

Today, Duran is a burgeoning promoter and he bounds into the ring at his fighters' bouts, happily fat and gregarious, injuries from a car wreck having ended his fighting days, finally, five years ago. He looks happy with the love he gets from fight people, happier and more at peace than he did when he was fighting, and that's surprising and a little sad. It always seemed to those watching that he was born to fight, but maybe when you do something long enough, you get it out of your system, eventually.

Duran was like beautiful, terrible music in the ring and maybe that explains a lot. But you don't need us to tell you why you forgave him for quitting against Leonard, or why you love him today. There's no mystery. It's no more involved than this: He is Duran. ■

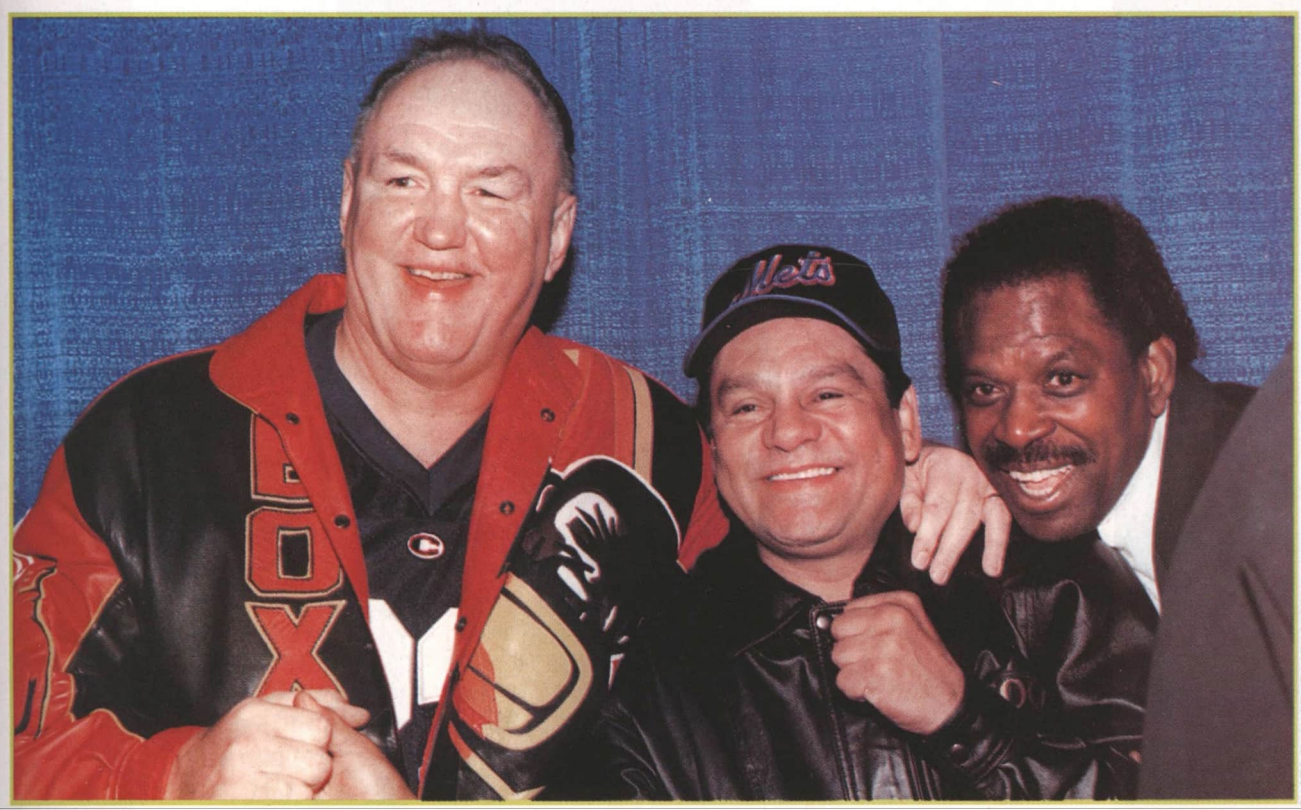
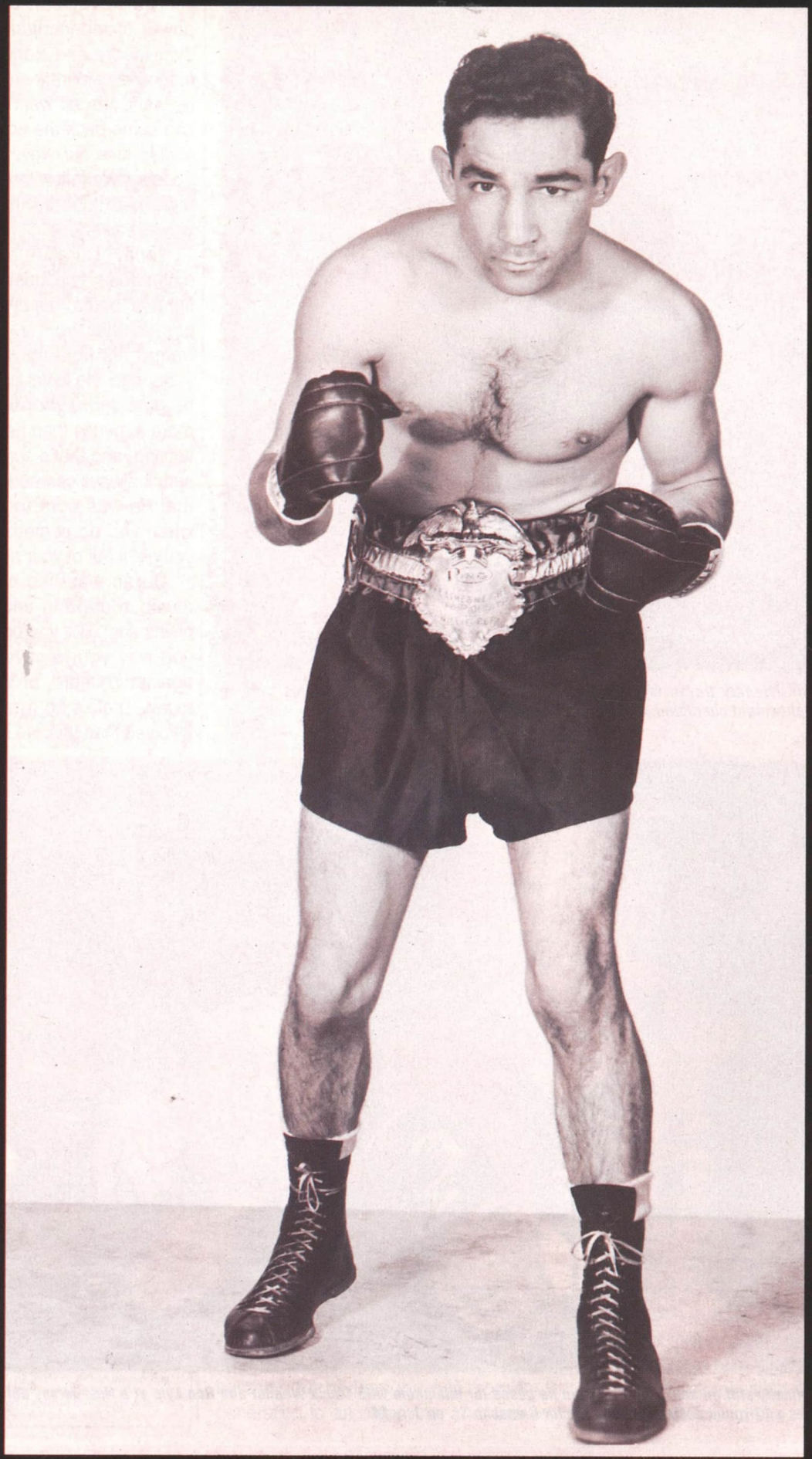


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Duran was technically still an active fighter when he posed for this photo with Chuck Wepner and Ron Lyle at a New Jersey autograph show in 2001. His final bout was a 12-round decision loss to Hector Camacho Sr. on July 14.



WILLIE PEP: 1922–2006

"When It Came To Boxing, *Willie* Stood Alone"

"When I watched him box, it used to occur to me that, if I could just listen carefully enough, I would hear the music. He turned boxing contests into ballets, performances by a virtuoso in which the opponent, trying to punch him out, became an unwilling partner in a dance, the details of which were so exquisite that they evoked joy, and sometimes even laughter."

—W.C. Heinz on Willie Pep, from *Once They Heard The Cheers*

"You couldn't hit me with a handful of stones"

—Willie Pep

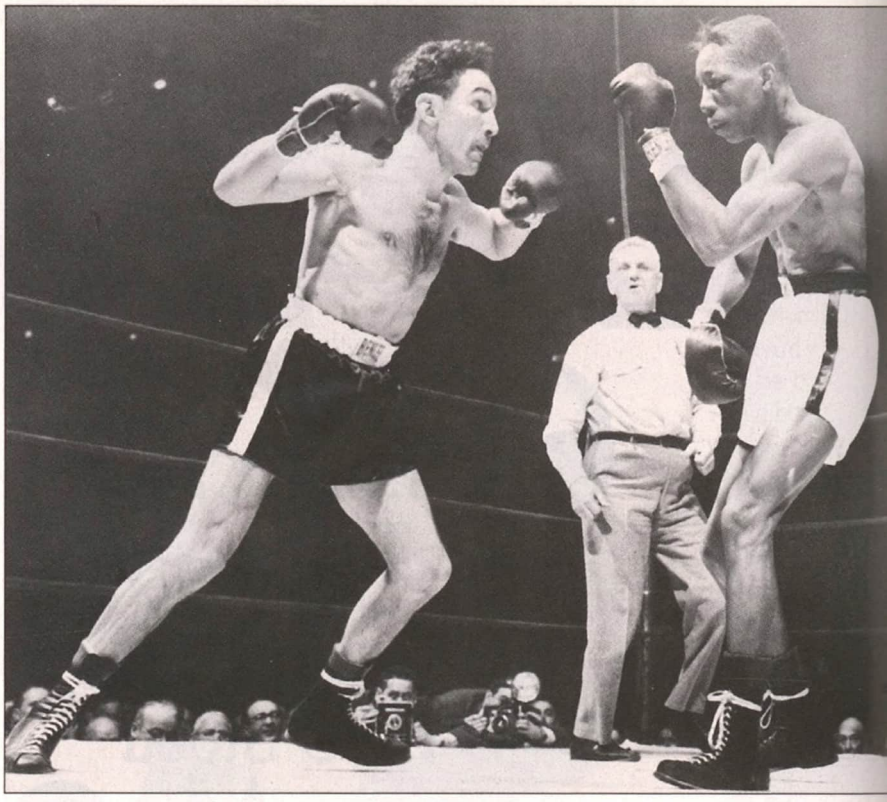
By Don Stradley

If Willie Pep's life were a song, Frank Sinatra would sing it during the wee small hours of the morning, and those who knew Pep would close their eyes and remember the fast women and slow horses, the epic battles fought on the grandest stage of all—the prize ring—and the long, slow trudges through Palookaville. They'd remember "The Will O' The Wisp," and how he moved with the grace of a tap dancer, or the loose rhythms of a jazz drummer. At other times, he had the weariness of a biblical character worn down by endless tasks.

Pep died at age 84 on Thanksgiving Day, 2006, but we can't say he was cheated by death; he'd seen it all, done it all, and tasted it all. In recent years, as he lay wasting on a hospital cot at the West Hill Convalescent Home in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, it seemed like a hard fall from grace for a man who

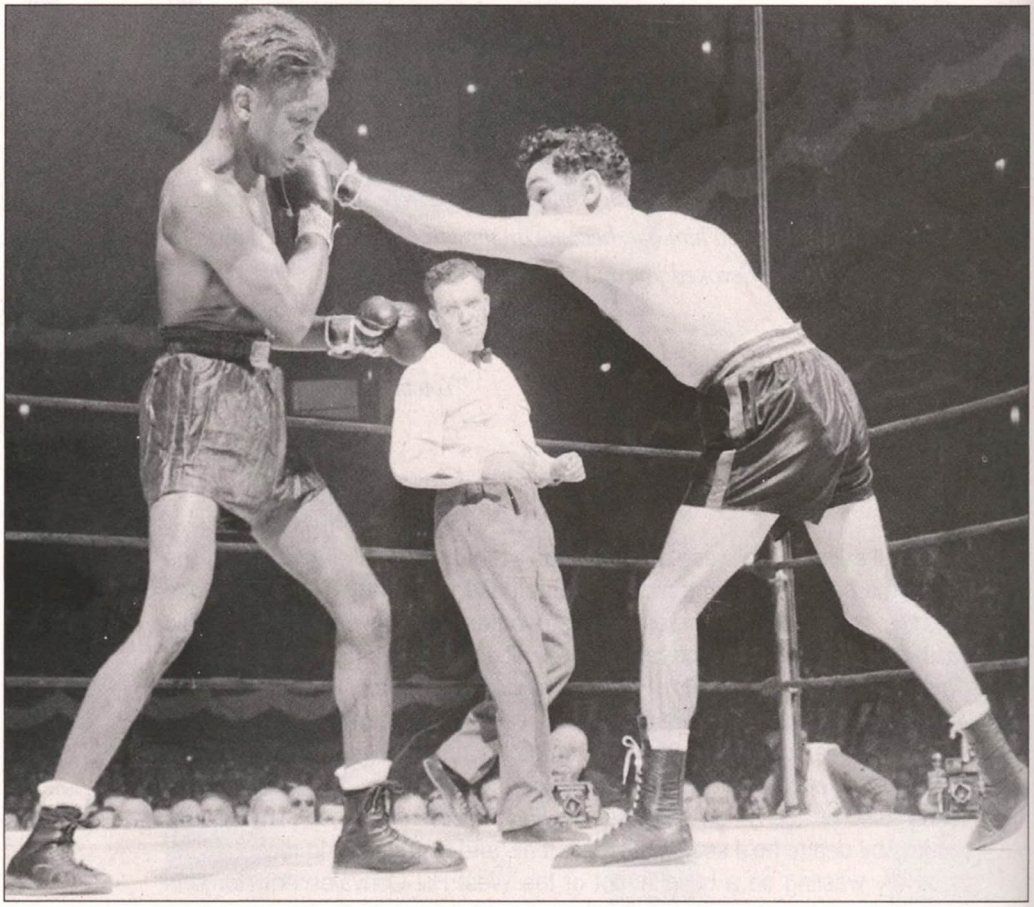
had been boxing royalty. But Pep, a compulsive gambler since the age of 13, knew life was often about how the dice rolled.

The son of Sicilian immigrants, Pep was part of the great wave of Italian-American fighters who came to prominence during the 1940s. Born Guglielmo Papaleo on September 19, 1922, Pep took up boxing at 15 because he was afraid of bullies in his Hartford neighborhood. His style gave body to the fantasies of a frail, nervous kid who'd dreamed of humiliating his tormentors. Paul Pender reminisced in a 1970 interview: "Willie Pep would be in back of you, beside you, making you miss punches, pat you on the fanny as you went by. Ray Robinson couldn't do that." After losing a 10-round decision to Pep in 1956, Kid Campeche said, "Fighting Willie Pep is like trying to stamp out a grass fire." John Lardner wrote that Pep could "move within a half-inch of danger and stay there all night."



For a defensive genius, Pep looks easy to hit in this shot of his second fight with Sandy Saddler, but in what Pep said was "the greatest night of my life," he regained the featherweight championship with a brilliant display of boxing.

After a 65-bout amateur career, Pep turned pro in 1940. Trained by Bill Gore and managed by Lou Viscusi, he won 62 consecutive fights, including the featherweight championship at age 20. After a close decision loss to former lightweight king Sammy Angott, he went undefeated for another 73 bouts, earning THE RING's Fighter of the Year distinction in 1945. Pep's quarry included Harold Dade, Manuel Ortiz, Chalky Wright (once for the championship, and three times after that, including their 1944 bout that marked the debut of NBC's *Gillette Cavalcade Of Sports*, the first ever network sports broadcast), Sal Bartolo (twice), Phil Terranova, Jock Leslie, Humberto Sierra (twice), Eddie Compo, Paddy DeMarco, and Jackie Wilson. There were some bumps along the way—his first marriage



Pep shoots a jab at Chalky Wright en route to winning the world featherweight title in November 1942. It was the then-unbeaten Pep's 54th consecutive victory as a professional.

imploded, and he was busted during a police raid of an impromptu dice game—but Pep's early career was stellar, the way it is for young fighters with supernatural gifts.

And, of course, there was the time Pep kayoed Jackie Graves in Minneapolis and allegedly won the third round without throwing a punch. Historians have debunked this bit of folklore, but just as Babe Ruth had his "called shot" in the 1932 World Series, Pep had his punchless round. The origin of the tale is attributed to St. Paul sportswriter Don Riley, who claimed Pep made a bet with him that he could win a round with no offense. Other writers took Riley's morsel and ran with it. "I give Willie the benefit of the doubt," said Bert Sugar, who placed Pep at number three in his recent book *The 100 Greatest Fighters Of All Time.*

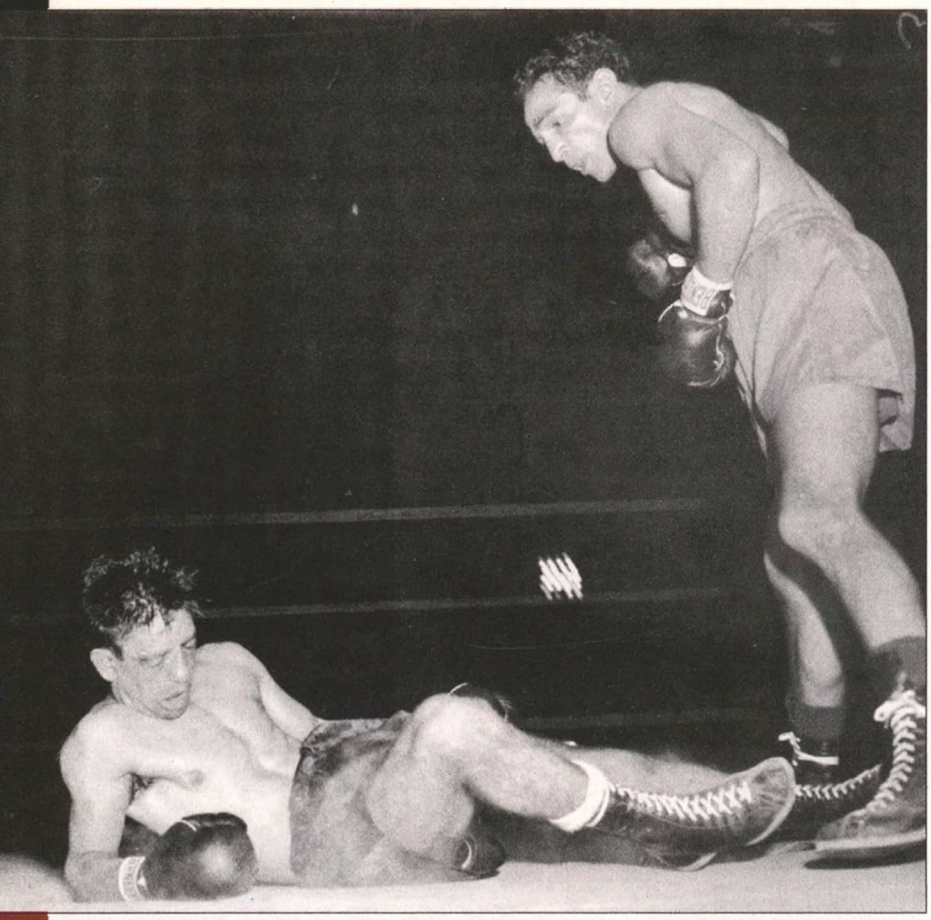
Historian Jake Wegner, however, investigating the Graves fight in 2004, dug up a ringside account by *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reporter Joe Hennessy, who described the third round this way: "They mixed wildly. A clicker couldn't count the blows. Pep punched Jack into the ropes as the most even round of the evening ended." Obviously, Pep wasn't handcuffed. Our guess is that Pep could have accomplished the feat against someone else—Pep fought two other opponents in Minneapolis that same year—but in Riley's haste to praise Pep, he mistakenly recalled Graves as the pigeon.

Featherweight Pep had heavyweight habits. He gambled big and he drank big. When he was spotted in the company of gangsters, they were big gangsters. The boy who used to fight to protect his shoeshine stand on the streets of Hartford probably enjoyed being seen with such big-time friends. His boxing pals included a couple of Italian powerhouses, Jake LaMotta and Rocky Graziano. One time LaMotta gave Pep some money to bet on a horse. Pep didn't think it was a good bet, so he held the money. When LaMotta's horse won, Pep went into hiding until Graziano could calm LaMotta. Pep still seemed like a kid hiding from the bullies, but his troubles would soon be bigger than anything Jake or Rocky could dish out.

A young-looking Pep didn't have a mark on him following his 12-round kayo of Sal Bartolo in defense of the 126-pound title in June 1946. While Pep was not known for his punching power, he did stop 65 opponents during his legendary career.

In 1947 Pep boarded a plane from Miami that crashed in Millville, New Jersey. Pep was dragged from the wreckage with a broken leg and six broken vertebrae. His career was supposedly over, but six months later he was back in the ring defending the title. For a while Pep was seen as an inspirational figure, but the goodwill didn't last. When Sandy Saddler stopped him in their first fight, the cognoscenti said Pep was washed-up. Quite a few yelled "fix." Four months later, Pep regained the championship when he beat Saddler in a punishing 15-rounder that was chosen as THE RING's Fight of the Year for 1949. "That was the greatest night of my life," Pep said years later.

There were parades, keys to the city, the whole bit. But the good times never lasted with Pep. Despite being a critic's darling, Pep wasn't always a hit with the customers. "What the average American fan wants to see is legalized mayhem," wrote THE RING's founder, Nat Fleischer, explaining why Pep was booed after boxing a 15-round masterpiece against Ray Famechon in '50. Then, with 38,000 people jammed into New York's Polo Grounds to see the rubber match with Saddler, Pep quit on his stool, complaining of a shoulder injury. He quit again in his fourth bout with Saddler, this time from an eye injury. The fourth bout was



In the first defense of his second reign, Pep tallied a seventh-round knockout of Eddie Compo at Madison Square Garden. He managed two more successful defenses before losing the title back to Saddler the next year. Although he fought on until 1966, Pep never won another title.

Dr. Vincent Nardiello examines Pep following his fourth and final bout with Saddler, in which Pep was stopped in the ninth round. The fight was so filled with fouls, both boxers were suspended by the New York commission, Saddler for two months, Pep for 17.

also loaded with enough fouls to get both men suspended, Saddler for two months, Pep for 17.

Suspicions surfaced that Pep was taking dives when he was knocked out by journeymen Tommy Collins and Lulu Perez. "It's not only plausible, it's conceivable," said Sugar. "He had no money. He gambled, and he was bad at it. And, don't forget, the mob controlled everything back then, and Viscusi had connections."

Pep's reputation was at its lowest—he'd never fight in New York again—but at age 36 he went on the backwater circuit and won all but two of his next 39 fights, earning a non-title bout with new featherweight boss Hogan "Kid" Bassey. Pep was stopped in nine.

He retired in 1959 and tried his hand at managing fighters. But, like most great fighters, he couldn't transfer his genius to another person. He grew so frustrated with one particular lug that he attacked him during a gym session, kicking him in the shins and swatting him with his porkpie hat.

Like a vagabond with a pair of gloves in his kit bag, Pep staged a melancholy comeback in 1965 at age 43. Some of his opponents were so starstruck, they'd ask Pep for his autograph at the weigh-in; some were so anxious, Pep had to calm them down during prefight instructions. It was embarrassing, but Pep's growing list of ex-wives kept him in the ring. "My wives were all good housekeepers," he joked. "After every divorce, they kept the house."

He won nine fights before dropping a decision to an unknown named Calvin Woodland in Richmond, Virginia. Pep hadn't even realized it was an official bout; he'd gone to Richmond thinking it was an exhibition. Customers watched him wheeze his way to the final bell. Writers churned out sentimental tributes marking the end of Pep's lyrical career, but Pep's only concern was where his next dollar would come from.

Pep worked as a Connecticut tax marshal for a while, but he usually ended up loaning money to the deadbeats he was supposed to collect from. The jobs accumulated: car salesman, nightclub manager, restaurant greeter, boxing referee, court-

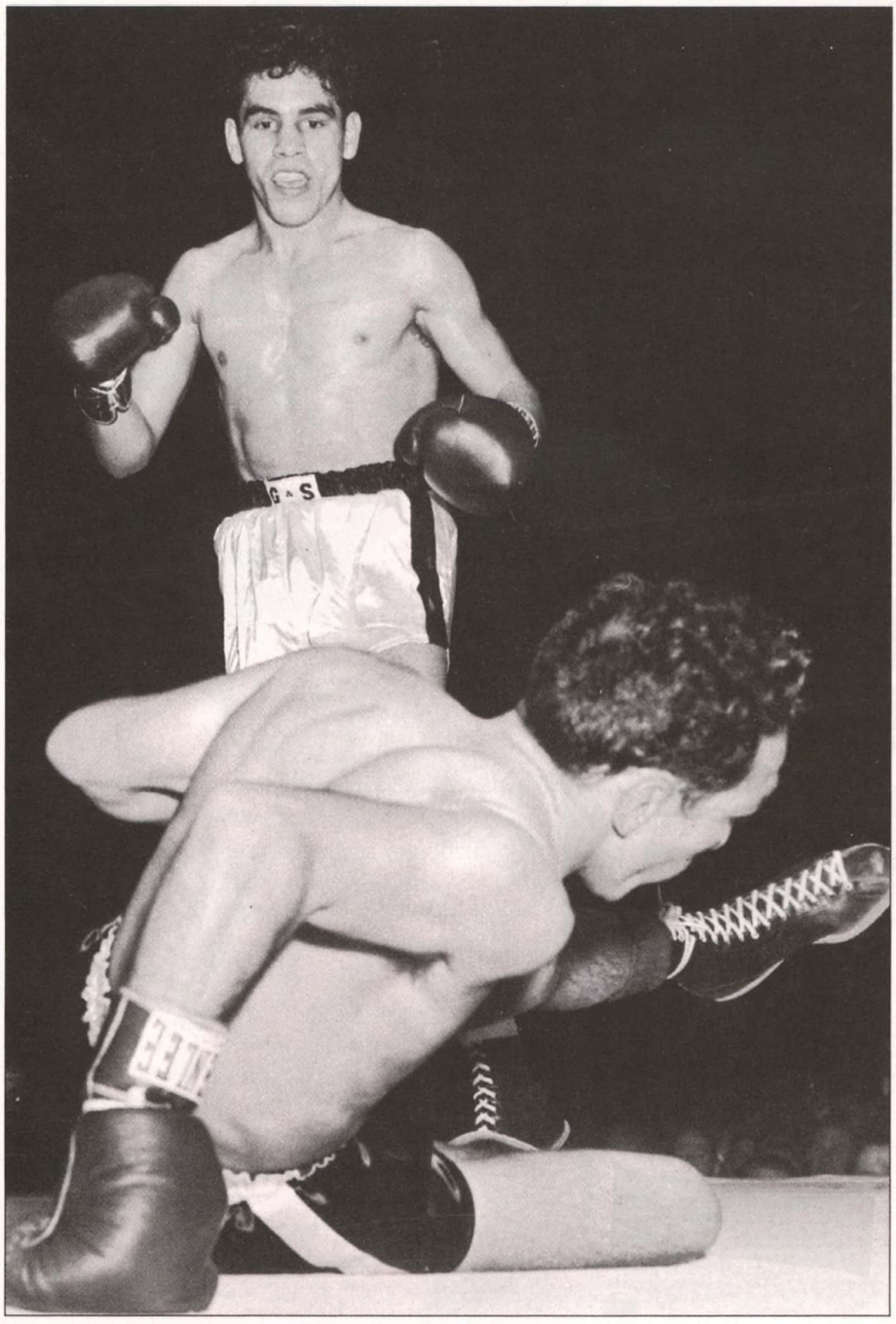
room deputy. Nothing stuck. Pep said of his postfight career, "I didn't adjust myself too well."

Gradually, Pep drifted into the life of a retired pug. He boxed exhibitions (even a few with his old rival Saddler) and, in 1973, published his memoirs, *Friday's Heroes*. That was the same year the Connecticut Athletic Commission denied him a referee's license because his gambling associates were under investigation. In 1980, Pep sued Newsweek Inc. after an article alleged he'd fixed a fight; the case was thrown out.

In 1987, he married the woman who stayed with him till the end, Barbara, and in 1990, he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. For a decade he floated on his reputation, making personal appearances, amusing people with the same jokes he'd told decades earlier. He lived an ordinary life, sharing a third-floor walkup apartment with Barbara. By 2000, however, he'd been diagnosed with dementia and was transferred to an Alzheimer's unit. When his wife suggested he was ill from boxing, Pep said, "But I was a good boxer. I never got hit."

He left behind some staggering numbers. Total fights: 242. Total rounds: 1,906. Ring record: 230-11-1 (65). Career span: 26 years. There were also two military hitches during World War II, six wives, and four children.

Upon hearing of Pep's death, Bill Gallo of the New York *Daily News* wrote, "It may be that Robinson was the best all-around fighter of all-time, but when it came to boxing, Willie stood alone."



A 31-year-old Pep hits the canvas during his 1954 loss to Lulu Perez in a fight a lot of historians believe was fixed. Many years later, Pep was denied a referee's license because of his association with gamblers.

"He was a delightful man, and a crowd-pleaser," said Sugar. "There was a period of time after Joe Louis retired when Pep and Ray Robinson carried the sport."

During the 1980s, Pep would occasionally grant interviews. Before the questions started, Pep would produce an old newspaper clipping. The article wasn't about the plane crash or the Saddler fights. It was just a simple rehash of the time Pep won a round without throwing a punch. He told Lowell Cohn of the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, "It tells you everything you need to know about me." Bert Sugar saw the article too. "He had it in his wallet," said Sugar, who didn't see the date or the author. "It was a small story, folded into quarters. He was so proud of it."

It would please Pep to know that most of his death notices, although riddled with wrong information, mentioned the Graves fight as gospel. As Babe Ruth said when questioned about his called home run, "It's in the papers, isn't it?"

But why did Pep try so hard to preserve this quirky piece of folklore? Maybe it was because Pep was an artist, and an artist's driving force, beyond his talent, is the need to be held in the imagination of his audience. The nervous kid with the gambling habit wanted to be remembered, in the end, as magical. ■

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Massachusetts and a regular contributor to this magazine.

THE PERILS OF FIGHTING OVERSEAS

Myth or Reality?

By Don Stradley

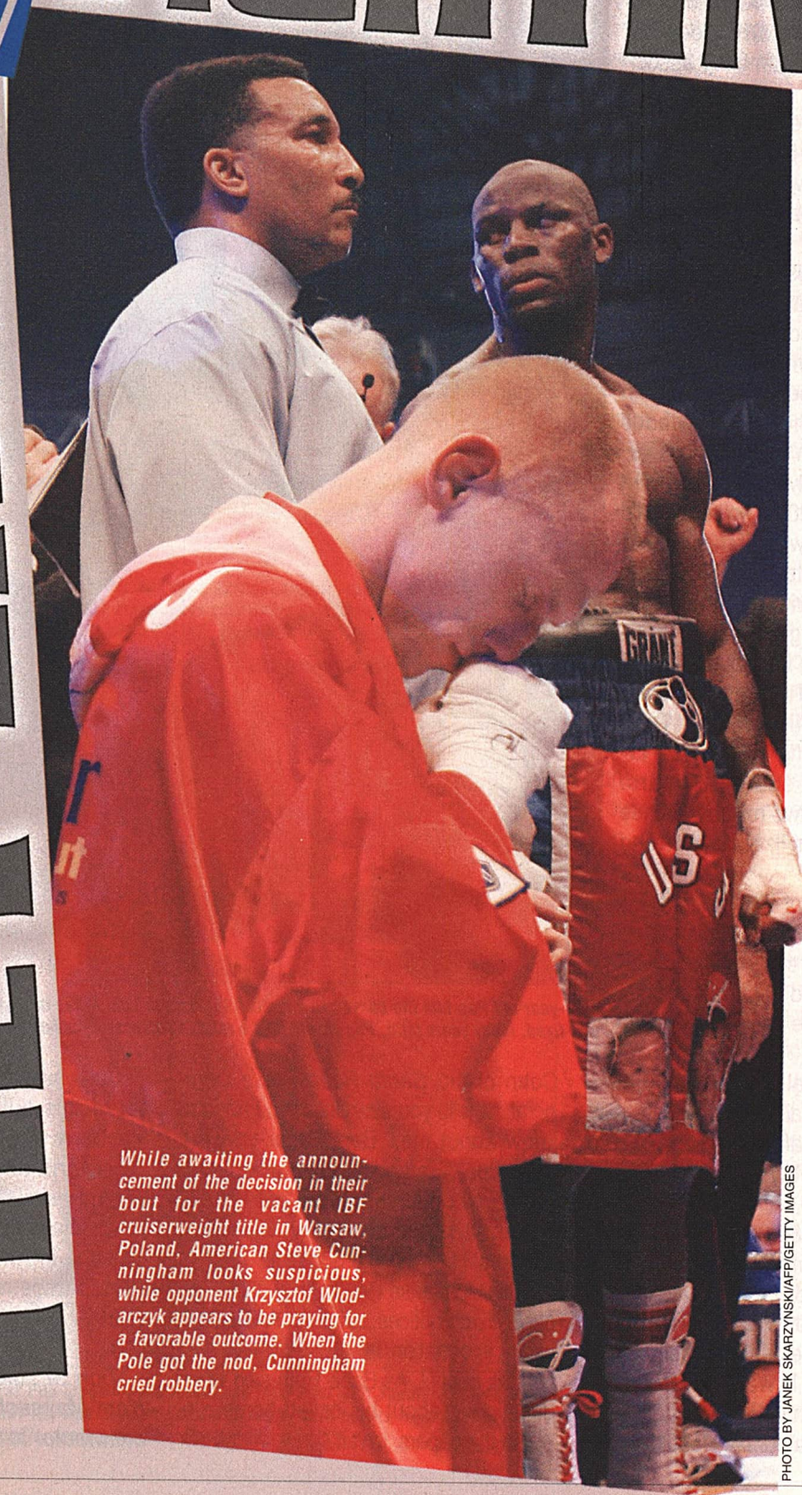
Philadelphia cruiserweight Steve Cunningham shouldn't have been surprised when he lost a split decision to Poland's Krzysztof Wlodarczyk. After all, when you're fighting a Pole in Warsaw, the scorecards are bound to be as shaky as Dick Cheney's aim during quail season. American judge Charlie Dwyer scored it 119-111 for Cunningham, but German judge Wallfried Rollert saw it for the Pole 116-112, and Polish judge Wlodzimierz Kromka scored it 115-113, also for Wlodarczyk, who claimed the vacant IBF title.

Cunningham is stumping for a rematch. He's alleged the European judges were signaling each other between rounds, and claims Wlodarczyk tossed his gloves out of the ring after the final bell to avoid having them examined. He's also convinced Wlodarczyk was juiced. "He was frothing at the mouth," Cunningham told THE RING. "I hit him with shots that made his eyes roll back, and he kept coming. But there was no piss test after the fight." Cunningham was also denied the Grant gloves he prefers.

Wlodarczyk's promoter, Andrzej Wasilewski, told a Polish print publication that IBF Vice President Benedetto Montelli "declined to perform testing. I still have the urine test samples in the trunk of my car." As for the Wlodarczyk tossing his gloves after the fight, Wasilewski said, "There is no regulation that I know of requiring inspection of gloves after the fight." Also, "The contract signed by Cunningham's team did not specify that Cunningham wanted to fight in his own gloves. In a case like this, the responsibility is on the promoter to provide the gloves. I provided Everlast." Still, Cunningham is livid.

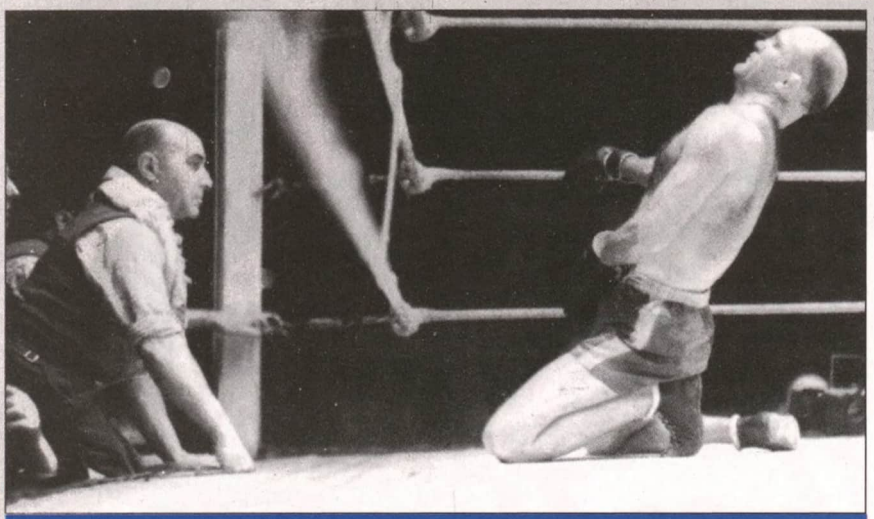
"I won't fight overseas ever again," he said. "Maybe I shouldn't say that. I fought in South Africa, and they were beautiful. But Poland? No."

Fighting overseas has always been risky. During the 1930s, many middleweights journeyed to France to fight champion Marcel Thil, only to lose on questionable fouls. In recent years, the European screw job has been particularly bad in Germany, where Sven Ottke and Markus Beyer were routinely awarded questionable decisions. Roy Jones refused to fight there, even when fans and writers wanted him to fight Germany-based Pole Dariusz Michalczewski. Women's pioneer Christy Martin also refused to fight overseas, even when lucrative bouts were offered. "It's bad enough to fight in someone's hometown," Martin said, "never mind their home country."



While awaiting the announcement of the decision in their bout for the vacant IBF cruiserweight title in Warsaw, Poland, American Steve Cunningham looks suspicious, while opponent Krzysztof Wlodarczyk appears to be praying for a favorable outcome. When the Pole got the nod, Cunningham cried robbery.

PHOTO BY JANEK SKARZYNSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Americans getting ripped off in Europe is an old tradition. Former middleweight champ Marcel Thil made somewhat of a habit of winning bouts on controversial fouls. He's pictured hamming it up after Lou Brouillard allegedly hit him below the belt in a 1936 bout held in Paris, France, which the Frenchman won via fourth-round disqualification.

The paranoia about fighting on other side of the world continues to grow, perhaps with good reason:

•January 2005: Jose Navarro journeys to Tokyo, Japan, to fight WBC titlist and local favorite Katsushige Kawashima. Navarro puts on a clinic, but loses by split decision.

•October 2005: Larry Donald appears to outbox and befuddle Nikolay Valuev in Oldenburg, Germany, but Valuev is awarded a majority decision, earning a shot at WBA heavyweight titleholder John Ruiz.

•December 2005: Ruiz travels to Berlin to defend against Valuev. Most see the fight going Ruiz' way, but he loses the WBA belt by majority decision.

•March 2006: Juan Manuel Marquez goes to Borneo Island to meet WBA featherweight boss Chris John, an Indonesian icon. Marquez complains that the referee is against him, but feels he does enough to win a close fight. He loses big on all three scorecards.

•September 2006: Colombian middleweight Edison Miranda goes to Wetzsler, Germany, to meet IBF middleweight titleholder Arthur Abraham, who is Armenian living in Germany. Miranda presses the action in an ugly fight, but loses by unanimous decision. Miranda's people accuse referee Randy Neumann (an American, by the way) of protecting Abraham during the fight. Neumann penalized Miranda five points for fouls, and was liberal in the amount of time he allowed Abraham to recover from low blows and a jaw injury.

"I'm very familiar with the subject," said Glen Johnson, who has lost transoceanic decisions to Ottke in Germany, Silvio Branco in Italy, and most recently to Clinton Woods in England. He's been given some raw deals in America too, but the former light heavyweight champion finds the overseas losses especially grating.

"The fighters who get robbed overseas are not considered elite fighters," said Johnson. "Nobody really cares about them. The promoters know exactly what they're doing. You are at the promoter's mercy. You won't see Oscar De La Hoya go over there. There'd be too much exposure. Mike Tyson fought in Europe, but they wouldn't dare mess with his fights. But a fighter like myself, or someone with less recognition, have no cameras following us. Promoters are free to do their thing."

Overseas promoters benefit from the lack of American media coverage, but as boxing websites occasionally offer pay-per-views (Wlodarczyk-Cunningham was available as a webcast), and as European fans post their observations on Internet message boards, they may find their cloak of anonymity being tugged slightly. Johnson doubts foreign promoters are worried.

"The problems won't end anytime soon," he said. "There is no organization to protect the fighters, and there's too much money involved. Promoters in Europe are trying to make stars. They'll do whatever it takes to make a star, even if they crush the hopes and dreams of some American fighter who has worked hard all his life. I won my last fight with Woods, but he got the split decision. It wasn't the worst ripoff, but I know I won. There's no outcry, because I'm not one of the elite."

Johnson could also be describing Ruiz and Donald, a pair of unheralded fighters imported as fodder for Valuev.

Trainer Emanuel Steward tries to avoid bringing fighters to exotic locations because jet lag alone is difficult to overcome, but having handled international stars such as Naseem Hamed and the Klitschkos brothers,

German super middleweight Sven Ottke is showered with confetti following his September 2003 victory over Mads Larsen. Many believe that Ottke, who had 33 of his 34 pro bouts in Germany, would not have been able to retire undefeated without the help of friendly officials.

he's seen what happens overseas.

"The promoters over there do a lot of little things calculated to throw you off," said Steward. "You're brought there to lose. You're not brought there to win."

Steward's comments remind us of stories told by American fighters returning from Denmark after fighting The Danish Pastry, Brian Nielsen. They told tales of food poisoning, bribery, and oddball scoring. Although there were no criminal proceedings in Denmark, American promoter Robert Mittleman was sentenced to three years probation, six months of home detention, and fined $2,000 for helping Danish promoter Mogens Palle fix one of Nielsen's fights. But Steward thinks foreign promoters can have things their way without obvious bribes.

"It doesn't have to be crooked," said Steward. "The promoters over there are the greatest hosts in the world. They have a lot of money, and they can influence judges, fighters, referees, everybody. Not necessarily with payoffs, but just by treating them well. Those judges like to travel, and if their vote sides with the promoter's fighter, they'll get to travel again."

According to Steward, overseas promoters are concerned with more than making money; they're protecting national iconography. "The crowd intimidates the judges," he said. "I've seen people over there go berserk when something doesn't go right."

Does an overseas fighter have any more of an advantage than an American hometowner fighting at home?

"It's more than hometown," said Steward. "It's an entire country. A boxing superstar in Europe or Japan is much bigger than any American fighter. It's almost like a religious thing."

Cunningham suspected something was wrong as soon as he arrived in Poland. There was no picture of him on the fight poster, the dates on his itinerary had been changed, and he couldn't get his tiny

PHOTO BY TORU YAMANAKA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Some overseas losses are a matter of the local fighter getting the benefit of the doubt in a close fight, but that was not the case when Jose Navarro fought Katsushige Kawashima in Tokyo. One judge scored the WBC super flyweight title bout 120-109 in the American's favor, but was overruled when the Japanese fighter received votes of 115-114 and 115-113 from the other two judges.

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Former light heavyweight champion Glen Johnson, who has fought overseas so often he calls himself the "Road Warrior," looks like he wants to puke as referee Howard John Foster raises Clinton Woods' arm in victory following their September 2006 bout in Bolton, England.

hotel room upgraded. Moreover, the Italian judge assigned to the fight was being replaced by Kromka, a Polish referee who'd received his IBF judge's license two days before the fight.

"There was supposed to be an Italian judge," said Cunningham, "But his last name was the same as my manager's lawyer, so the Poles didn't want him. They thought he was related. They dug so deep to create problems."

Commenting on Cunningham's Polish adventure, Dan Rafael of ESPN.com wondered why all judges aren't from neutral countries. "Picking one from the home country of each fighter is just asking for trouble and has the appearance of impropriety, even if everything is indeed on the up-and-up. But far be it for the IBF, which once fixed its rankings for bribe money, to avoid the appearance of corruption."

PHOTO BY MARTIN ROSE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

John Ruiz not only had a huge size disadvantage going against him when he tangled with Nikolay Valuev in Berlin, he also had to deal with what many believe was a robbery when the scorecards were announced. It wasn't the first time Valuev has profited from controversial scoring in Germany.

Regardless of alphabet organization involved, and all of them are involved in sketchy overseas bouts, it sure seems like the scorecards inevitably favor the fighter who doesn't celebrate the Fourth of July. What advice would Cunningham give to other fighters going abroad to fight?

"Don't go over there worrying," he said. "Instead, just fight harder. Beat the guy so bad that the people will know, even if the judges don't."

Johnson added, "A fighter might think he has to score a knockout to win in Europe, but that's not good if it's not his natural style. You can box the guy, but if he's still on his feet at the end, you'll lose the decision. What can you do? The judges sit there and don't appreciate the work you're doing. You can put a gun to their head, and they won't notice you."

"If you do get robbed, try to get a rematch," Cunningham said.

But was Cunningham really robbed against Wlodarczyk? THE RING's European correspondent, Brian Doogan, scored the bout a draw. Perhaps Cunningham simply lost a close fight. The John-Marquez fight could fall into the same category—it wasn't a major robbery; it was a close fight that went to the hometown guy, not an unusual occurrence in boxing. Miranda's camp called his loss to Abraham "one of the most blatant robberies in recent ring history," but few who saw it felt the decision was entirely unjust. In fact, some felt Miranda should have been disqualified.

The Navarro fight in Japan, however, was an undeniable robbery and the stench is still high over Tokyo. Rumors of Japan's crime syndicate tampering with the Kawashima-Navarro fight were amusing, but a more likely factor was an upcoming rubber match between Kawashima and his arch-rival Masamori Tokuyama, a Japanese blockbuster scheduled for later that year. The judges may have submarined Navarro in order to preserve the impending megafight. In the same vein, Cunningham has heard that Polish promoters were using him as a steppingstone to build up a European superbout between Wlodarczyk and Germany's Marco Huck.

So why do fighters from this continent keep going abroad, even though the deck seems stacked against them?

"Even with the bad stuff that happened, it was still the biggest payday of my life," said Cunningham.

"No one wants to fight me," said Johnson. "I have to go where the fights are."

"It's not my favorite part of the job, but sometimes a fighter has to travel," said Navarro, who eventually returned to Japan, where he lost convincingly to Tokuyama. Ruiz also returned to Germany. He lost convincingly to Ruslan Chagaev.

Of course, it's not impossible to win a fight overseas. In 2003, Julio Gonzales did what Jones wouldn't even try to do: He went to Germany and defeated Michalczewski on points. But it's inevitable that overseas stars will sometimes seem protected. There have been times on this side of the world, after all, when HBO fighters, certain WBC titleholders, and popular Las Vegas fighters, seem protected.

"Crazy scoring? You can get that anywhere," said Steward. "But I think a foreign fighter has a much better chance in America than a fighter from here has over there." ■

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Massachusetts and a regular contributor to THE RING.

BOXING FIGHT POSTERS, PROGRAMS, ART PRINTS, T-SHIRTS, PHOTOS & AUTOGRAPHS

AUTOGRAPHED BOXING GLOVES
(Single Gloves, Guaranteed Authentic)

Roberto Duran or Michael Spinks . . .$150.00 ea.
Joe Frazier or Jake LaMotta . . . . . .$150.00 ea.
Muhammad Ali $600.00
Marvin Hagler or Bernard Hopkins . .$150.00 ea.
Sugar Ray Leonard or Arturo Gatti . . . .$150.00 ea.
Mike Tyson $275.00
Vinny Pazienza or Tommy Morrison . . . .$75.00 ea.
Larry Holmes or Micky Ward . . . . . .$125.00 ea.
Oscar de la Hoya or Roy Jones . . . . . .$195.00 ea.
Carmen Basilio or Vito Antuofermo . . .$95.00 ea.
George Foreman or Evander Holyfield . . .$325.00 ea.
Felix Trinidad or Vitali Klitschko . . . .$195.00 ea.
Shane Mosley or Joey Gamache . . . . . .$75.00 ea.
Willie Pep or Kid Gavilan . . . . . .$175.00 ea.
Hector Camacho or Alexis Arguello $125.00
2002 Olympic Team $500.00

FIGHT PROGRAMS

ALI/ELLIS or ALI/WILLIAMS.....$450.00 ea.
ALI/FOREMAN (Closed Circuit) $100.00
ALI/FRAZIER (Closed Circuit) $150.00
ALI/FRAZIER II.....$500.00
ALI/HOLMES $125.00
ALI/LISTON II (vg, black version) $400.00
ALI/LONDON $350.00
ALI/NORTON II or ALI/YOUNG .....$600.00 ea.
ALI/NORTON III.....$125.00
ALI/QUARRY II.....$500.00
ALI/ROBINSON $450.00
ALI/SPINKS (VG) or ALI/SPINKS II..$250.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA I or II .....$35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO, plus Tyson $50.00
CARBAJAL/GONZALEZ, De la Hoya/J. Mayweather..$50.00
CARBAJAL/GONZALEZ II or CARBAJAL/KIM...$25.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/CAMACHO or HAMED/KELLY ..$40.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/MAYWEATHER II $25.00
CHAVEZ/RANDALL or CAMACHO/PAZIENZA .....$35.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or De la Hoya/WHITAKER .....$45.00 ea.
De la Hoya AMATEUR PROGRAM.....$300.00
De la Hoya/CHAVEZ II or De la Hoya/CARR $30.00 ea.
De la Hoya/GATTI or De la Hoya/CHARPENTIER ..$25.00 ea.
De la Hoya/QUARTEY or De la Hoya/TYSON..$45.00 ea.
De la Hoya/RUELAS or De la Hoya/COLEY .$35.00 ea.
De la Hoya/MOSLEY or De la Hoya/MOSLEY II$35.00 ea.
De la Hoya/TRINIDAD or BENN/MCCLELLAN ...$50.00 ea.
DURAN/BARKLEY or DURAN/N. GONZALEZ.$75.00 ea.
DURAN/HEARNS or DURAN/VIRUET$200.00 ea.
DURAN/PAZIENZA I or II .....$25.00 ea.
FOREMAN/MORRISON, De la Hoya/Dorsey $80.00
GATTI/ROBINSON II, VARGAS/CAMPAS ...$45.00
GATTI/RODRIGUEZ or MANCINI/CAMACHO.....$75.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or MANCINI/KIM .$85.00 ea.
HAGLER/MUGABI.....$45.00
HAMED/BEDILLO or HAMED/BUNGU .$15.00 ea.
HEARNS/CUEVAS $125.00
HOLYFIELD/BOWE I, II or III.....$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/COOPER or HOLYFIELD/DOKES $45.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN or HOLYFIELD/LEWIS $75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES.....$35.00
HOLYFIELD/LEWIS II or HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II ..$25.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MOORER $75.00
HOLYFIELD/QAWI $200.00
JONES/HOPKINS & BOWE/FERGUSON...$150.00
JONES/GRANT or JONES/GRIFFIN ...$25.00 ea.
JONES/DELVALLE or JONES/JOHNSON .....$30.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN.....$125.00
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II.....$65.00 ea.
LEWIS/BRUNO or LEWIS/MCCALL ...$45.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUCKER or LEWIS/GOLOTA .$30.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUA or LEWIS/RUDDOCK.....$80.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or MANCINI/ESPANA ..$25.00 ea.
MANCINI/HAUGEN, JONES JR./SERWANO $45.00
MARCIANO/CHARLES (vg-ex).....$400.00
MARCIANO/CHARLES II.....$500.00
MERCER/MORRISON $40.00
PATTERSON/LISTON.....$600.00
PATTERSON/JOHANSSEN I or II ..$350.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or PAZIENZA/GRAHAM....$40.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT I or II .....$20.00 ea.
ROBINSON/BASILIO $450.00
TRINIDAD/VARGAS.....$65.00
TRIPLE HITTER- Duran/Sims, Hearns $20.00
TYSON/FRANCIS.....$50.00
TYSON/BRUNO or TYSON/HOLMES .....$100.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD I or II .....$20.00 ea.
TYSON/MCNEELEY or THOMAS/WEAVER $15.00 ea.

8 X 10 AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS

OSCAR De la Hoya or ROY JONES $150.00 ea.
JOE FRAZIER or FELIX TRINIDAD . . .$85.00 ea.
LARRY HOLMES or GENE FULLMER $45.00. ea.
MAX SCHMELING $150.00
JOHN RUIZ or ERNIE SHAVERS . .$25.00 ea.
HECTOR "MACHO" CAMACHO $35.00
EMILE GRIFFITH or DANA ROSENBLATT .$15.00 ea.
LENNOX LEWIS $150.00
JAKE LAMOTTA or CARMEN BASILIO $35.00 ea.
BEAU JACK (BW) or WILLIE PEP . . . .$50.00 ea.
KID GAVILAN or JOEY MAXIM . . . .$75.00 ea.
EVANDER HOLYFIELD $100.00
MIKE TYSON $150.00
TOMMY MORRISON or RAY MERCER .$25.00 ea.
BILLY CONN or CARLOS MONZON . .$175.00 ea.
FLOYD PATTERSON or JIMMY ELLIS . .$50.00 ea.
MICKY WARD or RAY MANCINI . . . . .$35.00 ea.
INGEMAR JOHANSSON or IRAN BARKLEY .$20.00 ea.
BOBBY CZYZ or CHUCK WEPNER . . .$25.00 ea.
JOHN TATE or JERSEY JOE WALCOTT . . .$250.00 ea.
LUCIEN RODRIGUEZ or EDWIN ROSARIO .$175.00 ea.
GEORGE FOREMAN $125.00

FIGHT T-SHIRTS

MUHAMMAD ALI • HOPKINS/TAYLOR • TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91
HECTOR CAMACHO • JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ • DELAHOYA/CARR
LEWIS/TYSON • CHAVEZ/CAMACHO • GATTI/MAYWEATHER
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • DELAHOYA/GATTI • DELAHOYA/KAMAU
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY - II • ALI/NORTON
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD • FELIX TRINIDAD
DELAHOYA/MAYORGA • DELAHOYA/VARGAS • TYSON/SPINKS
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER • OSCAR DELAHOYA • ROBERTO DURAN
V. KLITSCHKO/SANDERS • HAGLER/HEARNS • MORALES/PACQUIAO
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II • LEONARD/HEARNS
HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II • HOLYFIELD/STEWART • ROY JONES JR.
MERCER/MORRISON • MANCINI/HAUGEN • ROCKY MARCIANO
HOPKINS/DELAHOYA • JONES/GONZALEZ • LEONARD/DURAN II
LEONARD/DURAN III • MOSLEY/STONE • LEONARD/NORRIS
HAGLER/LEONARD • MAYWEATHER/HERNANDEZ • MOSLEY/VARGAS
MAYWEATHER/RIOS • MORALES/BARRERA II • 92 OLYMPIC TRIALS
PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT • IRON MIKE TYSON (XL Only)

***Just $18.00 each* (choose XL or L)**

GREAT MOMENTS IN BOXING

8"x10" B&W Action Photos — Just $4.75 ea.

- Robinson/LaMotta Fight
- Louis-Schmeling Battle
- Dempsey beats Willard
- Marciano slugs Lastarza
- Robinson beats Basilio
- Tunney/Dempsey Battle
- Sanchez/Lopez Battle
- Duran beats Buchanan
- Marciano's KOs Walcott
- Robinson slugs Gavilan
- Sanchez beats Gomez
- Ali floors Liston
- Hagler nails Hearns
- Leonard defeats Hearns
- Frazier upsets Ali
- Graziano - Zale classic
- Ali-Foreman Battle
- Marciano KO's Louis

8"x10" B&W Photos - Just $4.75 ea.

Ali • Basilio • Delahoya • Chavez • Corbett • Frazier
Dempsey • Duran • LaMotta • Leonard • J. Johnson
Jones Jr. • Louis • Marciano • Foreman • Hagler
Tyson • Sullivan • Robinson • Pep • Sanchez • Holyfield

8"x10" COLOR PHOTOS - $5.75 ea.

Ali • Delahoya • Hagler vs. Hearns • Louis
Tyson v. Holyfield • Gatti • Duran • Lewis • LaMotta
Robinson • Hagler • Sanchez • Holyfield • Leonard
Leonard vs. Hearns • Lewis • Barrera • Morales
Ali vs. Frazier • Ali vs. Foreman • Ali KO's Liston
Marciano • Tyson • Jones Jr. • Hagler vs. Duran

BASEBALL CAPS - $17 EA:

GATTI/DORIN • CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA • TYSON/HOLYFIELD • MIKE TYSON
DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • GATTI/MAYWEATHER • TYSON/BERBICK
MOORER/FOREMAN • HAMED/BARERRA • DELAHOYA/RUELAS
PAZIENZA/DURAN • DELAHOYA/WHITAKER • HOPKINS/DELAHOYA
KLITSCHKO/SANDERS • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II • Team DURAN
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY • TYSON/HOLYFIELD II • JONES/GONZALEZ
DELAHOYA/MAYORGA • DELAHOYA/GATTI • TYSON/RUDDOCK II
JONES/PAZIENZA • OSCAR DELAHOYA • MORALES/BARRERA II
TYSON/BRUNO II • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD
TYSON/SELDON • CORRALES/CASTILLO • MOSLEY/VARGAS

BOXING FIGHT POSTERS

Muhammad Ali - LeRoy Neiman Poster.....$75.00
CLAY/LISTON or ALI/FRAZIER III (reproductions) .....$25.00 ea.
DEMPSEY/TUNNEY II or MARCIANO/WALCOTT (reproductions)$25.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER I (LeRoy Neiman Poster).....$600.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (Closed Circuit) POSTER.....$300.00
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit) NEIMAN $150.00
ALI/HOLMES $125.00
ALI/FOREMAN (Closed Circuit) Poster $500.00
BARRERA/JONES or BARRERA/DIAZ .....$25.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA or BOWE/GOLOTA II .....$35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO or CHAVEZ/CAMACHO .....$75.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/RAMIREZ or CHAVEZ/MITCHELL .....$75.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/RANDALL, TRINIDAD/CAMACHO.....$45.00
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/TAYLOR II.....$45.00 ea.
COTTO/MALIGNAGGI or MASCAEV/RAHMAN 2 .....$10.00 ea.
De la Hoya/HOPKINS (English or Spanish) .....$10.00 ea.
De la Hoya/CAMACHO or De la Hoya/RIVERA .....$20.00 ea.
De la Hoya/CAMPANELLA, Jones/Tate.....$45.00
De la Hoya/TRINIDAD or HOLYFIELD/BOWE .....$25.00 ea.
De la Hoya/MOSLEY or De la Hoya/MOSLEY II .....$30.00 ea.
De la Hoya/LEIJA or De la Hoya/CHAVEZ II .....$50.00 ea.
De la Hoya/VARGAS or De la Hoya/GATTI .....$30.00 ea.
De la Hoya/QUARTEY or De la Hoya/CASTILLEJO .....$20.00 ea.
De la Hoya/RUELAS or De la Hoya/HERNANDEZ .....$25.00 ea.
De la Hoya/WHITAKER or De la Hoya/GONZALEZ.....$20.00 ea.
De la Hoya/MAYORGA or HOLYFIELD/RAHMAN .....$15.00 ea.
DURAN/BENITEZ or DURAN/CAMACHO .....$25.00 ea.
FOREMAN/GRIMSLEY or FOREMAN/MORRISON.....$30.00 ea.
FOREMAN/SAVARESE or HERNANDEZ/GERENA.....$5.00 ea.
GATTI/MAYWEATHER or TONEY/RUIZ .....$10.00 ea.
GATTI/LEIJA or HEARNS/OBEL .....$20.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MERCER or GOLOTA/NICHOLSON .....$45.00 ea.
HAGLER/DURAN or FOREMAN/COONEY.....$35.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or FOREMAN/MOORER .....$175.00 ea.
HAGLER/LEONARD or HAGLER/MUGABI .....$75.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY II or LAZARRAGA/MEDINA .....$10.00 ea.
HOLMES/L.SPINKS or HOLMES/WILLIAMS .....$300.00 ea.
HOLMES/COONEY or HOLMES/SMITH II.....$35.00 ea.
HOLMES/SHAVERS or HOLMES/M. SPINKS.....$30.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE III.....$75.00
HOLYFIELD/CZYZ or HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN .....$35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/DOUGLAS $60.00
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or HOLMES/MERCER .....$10.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MOORER I or II.....$20.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/STEWART, PAZ/HONEYGHAN.....$45.00
HOPKINS/EASTMAN or HOPKINS/TAYLOR II.....$10.00 ea.
JONES/GRIFFIN II or JONES/JOHNSON .....$20.00 ea.
JONES/GONZALEZ or JONES/WOODS .....$15.00 ea.
KLITSCHKO/PETER or TARVER/JOHNSON II .....$5.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II.....$40.00
LEONARD/DURAN III or LEONARD/LALONDE .....$45.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS II or PAZIENZA/JONES.....$50.00 ea.
LEWIS/GOLOTA or LEWIS/TUCKER .....$10.00 ea.
LEWIS/MCCALL or LEWIS/BRIGGS .....$35.00 ea.
LEWIS/GRANT or LEWIS/BOTHA .....$30.00 ea.
LEWIS/RAHMAN or LEWIS/TUA or LEWIS/TYSON ..$25.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or HOLYFIELD/BYRD.....$20.00 ea.
MARCIANO/ALI (On-Site Computer Fight) $1500.00
MARCIANO/MOORE (Professionally Framed) $8,000.00
MAYWEATHER/CORRALES or MAYWEATHER/CASTILLO .....$25.00 ea.
MAYWEATHER/HERNANDEZ or CHAVEZ/ROBINSON ...$10.00 ea.
MORALES/BARRERA II (English or Spanish).....$20.00 ea.
MORALES/BARRERA III or MORALES/AYALA.....$10.00 ea.
MORALES/MCCULLOUGH or MORALES/RAMIREZ .....$5.00 ea
MORALES/PACQUIAO or BOTHA/BRIGGS .....$25.00 ea.
MORALES/PACQUIAO (SPAN) or TAPIA/AYALA .....$20.00 ea.
MORRISON/HIDE or SAVARESE/DOUGLAS.....$10.00 ea.
MORRISON/LEWIS or MANCINI/CAMACHO .....$45.00 ea.
MORRISON/MERCER or MORRISON/RUDDOCK.....$35.00 ea.
MOSLEY/TAYLOR or MOSLEY/DIAZ .....$10.00 ea.
MOSLEY/VARGAS or MOSLEY/VARGAS II.....$10.00 ea.
NELSON/HERNANDEZ or MORALES/BUENO.....$5.00 ea.
PACQUIAUO/MARQUEZ or MARTIN/RIJKER .....$10.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/CAMACHO or PAZIENZA/DURAN.....$50.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT or PAZIENZA/DURAN II.....$20.00 ea
PETTWAY/BROWN or RUDDOCK/JACKSON .....$5.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/WHITAKER or TRINIDAD/PETTWAY .....$20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/THIAM or TRINIDAD/VARGAS .....$35.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/CHERIFI or TRIPLE HITTER - Duran/Sims .$30.00 ea.
TYSON/BERBICK (LeRoy Neiman) $150.00
TYSON/BRUNO II or IRON MIKE TYSON.....$20.00 ea.
TYSON/DOUGLAS $225.00
TYSON/HOLMES or TYSON/BIGGS .....$35.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '96 or TYSON/SELDON $65.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II - 5/3/97 (Cancelled) $5.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II $10.00
TYSON/GOLOTA.....$35.00
TYSON/RUDDOCK II or TYSON/SAVARESE.....$75.00 ea.

Ordering Info.: Please include $8 P&H per package (Foreign Countries $15 per package ground or $25 air)
Send To: BOB PACE, 141 ROUTE ONE, Box 304, Rowley, MA 01969 or call w/AMEX, Disc., VISA or MC - (781) 284-4954

[Summary]

Heavyweights

Oleg Maskaev W 12 Peter Okhello
(*Retains WBC title*)
Juan Carlos Gomez KO 3
Daniel Frank
Corrie Sanders KO 2 Colin Wilson
Sedreck Fields KO 8 Darroll Wilson
Kali Meehan KO 3 Anton Nel
Brian Minto KO 6 Axel Schulz
Audley Harrison KO 3
Danny Williams
Michael Moorer KO 1 Cliff Couser
Roman Greenberg KO 10
Steve Pannell
Dominick Guinn W 8 Zack Page
Oliver McCall KO 7 Yanqui Diaz
Duncan Dokiwari KO 4 Willie Palms

Cruiserweights

Krzysztof Wlodarczyk W 12
Steve Cunningham
(*Wins Vacant IBF Title*)
Marco Huck W Disq. 2 Pietro Aurino
Valery Brudov KO 11 Luis Pineda
Johnathon Banks KO 2 Sebastian Hill
William Guthrie KO 4
Donnell Williams
Pawel Kolodziej W 8
Remigijus Ziausys
Vadim Tokarev KO 2 Shane Swartz

Light Heavyweights

Paul Murdoch W 12 Walter Pupua
Tomas Adamek W 10 Mukadi Manda
Hugo Garay KO 4 Fernando Vera
Aaron Jaco W 8 Sven Haselhuhn

Super Middleweights

Jeff Lacy W 10 Vitali Tsypko
Carl Froch KO 3 Tony Dodson
David Gogiya W 12 Jackson Chanet
David Banks W 10 Elvin Ayala
Sakio Bika KO 2
Dechapon Suwunnalird
Sonni Angelo W 8
Shaun Quagliotto

Middleweights

Jermain Taylor W 12 Kassim Ouma
(*Retains World Championship*)
Mariano Carrera KO 11
Javier Castillejo
(*Wins WBA Title*)
Winky Wright W 12 Ike Quartey
Edison Miranda KO 1 Willie Gibbs
Sebastian Sylvester KO 8
Peter Mitrevski Jr.
Fukutaro Ujiie KO 5
Command Kishimoto
Felix Sturm KO 6 Gavin Topp
Howard Eastman KO 12
Richard Williams
Shannan Taylor KO 6
Nonoy Gonzales
Sebastien Demers W 12
Ian MacKillop

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Heavyweight Dominick Guinn slams a right into Zack Page's body

Adam Vella W 10
Sean Connell
Renan St. Juste KO 1
Walid Smichet
Ronald Hearns KO 1
Jeffrey Osborne Jr.
Juan Cabrera KO 2
Julio Gonzalez
Giovanni Lorenzo KO 1
Jordan Sanchez

Junior Middleweights

Joel Julio KO 3
Francisco Campos
Jimmy Lange D 12
Fontaine Cabell
Yuri Foreman W 10
Andrew Facey
Kuvanych Toygonbayev KO 5
Joel Mayo
Victor Puiu W 8 Amilcar Melian

Welterweights

Miguel Cotto KO 5 Carlos Quintana
(*Wins Vacant WBA Title*)
Antonio Margarito W 12
Joshua Clottey
Oktay Urkal KO 3 Ribert Cristea
Joel Julio W 12 Cosme Rivera
Andre Berto KO 4 Miguel Figueroa
Vitaliy Demyanenko W 12
Jakkirt Suwunnalird
Dondon Sultan W 12 Eddie Delic

Junior Welterweights

Demetrius Hopkins W 12
Rogelio Castaneda
Emanuel Augustus W 10
Russell Jones
Paul Spadafora KO 5
Frankie Zepeda
Sergey Sorokin W 12 Victor Castro
Amir Khan W 10 Rachid Drilzane
Norberto Bravo W 8
Michael Lucero
Carlos Vilches KO 8 Walter Diaz
Kengo Nagashima W 10
Kei Igarashi

Lightweights

Martin Kristjansen D 12
Stefano Zoff
Rustam Nugaev W 10
Efren Hinojosa
Dave Stewart W 10 Kpakpo Allotey

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Junior lightweight Joan Guzman stings Antonio Davis with a left

Junior Lightweights

Joan Guzman W 12 Antonio Davis
Yodsanan Nanthachai KO 2
Omid Gholizadeh
Yodsanan Nanthachai KO 4
Sataporn Singwangcha
Maxwell Awuku KO 9
Lehlohonolo Ledwaba
Mirai Ishigaki W 10 Kenji Kumagai

Featherweights

Injin Chi W 12 Rodolfo Lopez
(*Regains WBC Title*)
Juan Manuel Marquez KO 9
Jimrex Jaca
Nicky Cook W 8 Harry Ramogoad
Jose Hernandez KO 8 Jason Litzau
Vyacheslav Gusev W 10
Gennadiy Delisandru
Matthew Marsh W 10 Rocky Dean
Wilfredo Acuna KO 10
Freddy Oporta
Juan Cabrera Tech. Win 10
Jose Estrella
Yoshio Kojima Tech. Win 7
Zaiki Takemoto
Leonilo Miranda KO 2
Rodolfo Garay

Junior Featherweights

Katsuyuki Takayoshi D 8
Takayuki Kurita
Diego Silva W 8 Ramon Torres
Santos Martinez KO 6 Hector Avila

Bantamweights

Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym KO 2
Pederito Laurente
Masayuki Mitani W 10
Masaki Kawabata
Abner Mares KO 4
Wilmer Rodriguez
Emmett Gazzard KO 6
Saensak Singmanasak
Simone Maludrottu KO 3
Damaen Kelly

Junior Bantamweights

Nobuo Nashiro W 12
Eduardo Garcia
Daiki Kameda KO 1
Mohammed Sadik

Flyweights

Daisuke Naito W 12
Hiroshi Yoshiyama
Brahim Asloum KO 4
Rafael Lozano
Luis Maldonado KO 4 Javier Torres
Roberto Vasquez W 12
Takefumi Sakata

Junior Flyweights

Koki Kameda W 12 Juan Landaeta
(*Retains WBA Title*)
Kompayak Porpramook KO 3
Larry Mede
Kwanthai Chor Nor Pattalung KO 2
Danny Linasa

Strawweights

Yoshihiro Hisada W 10
Suguru Takizawa
Pornsawan Kratingdaenggym KO 5
Tommy Terado

Winky Wright W 12 Ike Quartey

Tampa, Florida: In his long-awaited homecoming, the well-traveled Wright had an easy night against the 37-year-old Quartey, much to the delight of the 13,825 fans on hand at the St. Pete Times Forum. It was the first fight for Wright since his June draw with middleweight champ Jermain Taylor, while Quartey was coming off a controversial loss to Vernon Forrest. Former stablemates under the France-based Acaries brothers, the two showed plenty of respect for each other throughout.

But from the opening round, it was obvious Wright, 159¼, was simply too big and too skilled for the Ghanaian, a former welterweight beltholder making his middleweight debut. The southpaw Wright stayed in the pocket and used a stiff jab to set up straight lefts. The shorter Quartey, 157, struggled to work his way inside and land cleanly against Wright's patented shell-like defense.

Early in the second, Quartey managed to engage Wright at closer range and smother his jab. But Wright got perhaps a three-point swing on the judges' cards when, as he landed three rights to the side of Quartey's head, their feet became entangled and Quartey hit the deck. Referee Frank Santore Jr. (USA) ruled it a knockdown, even though replays showed that it wasn't.

Wright established his space again in the third, when he continued pounding Quartey with a steady stream of one-two combos that caused his opponent's left eye to puff up. Though it was obvious their man didn't have enough power to hurt Wright, Quartey's corner implored him between rounds to let his hands go. Whenever he did, Wright made him pay.

Trying to match Wright's relentless pace, Quartey appeared to win the sixth. He drove Wright into the ropes early and landed a solid right upstairs. Wright covered up behind his hands-high guard, but some of Quartey's bombs landed on the side of his head.

Midway through the seventh, Wright was awarded another questionable knockdown when Quartey ran into a hard left. Santore ruled that Quartey's glove touched the canvas, but replays revealed that it touched his shoe. Wright coasted through the rest of the round, then dominated the eighth, ninth, and 10th as Quartey slowed down. Way ahead on the cards, Wright dropped his pace in the final two rounds, both of which Quartey won.

Peter Trematerra (USA) scored it 117-109 for Wright, while Dave Moretti (USA) and Don Trella (USA) had the local favorite ahead 117-110. THE RING saw it 117-111 for Wright, who said afterward that he wants the winner of the May 5 Oscar De La Hoya-Floyd Mayweather superfight. Quartey, 37-4-1 (33), who returned in January of 2005 after a five-year layoff, may be headed back into retirement.

Wright, 51-3-1 (25), threw a career-high 1,011 total punches and 524 powerpunches, according to CompuBox. He outlanded Quartey 269 to 174. "I was trying to close the show," Wright said. "Ike's a tough fighter. I dropped him a few times, I hurt him a few times, but he kept coming back. He's tough as nails."

Television: **HBO**
Promoters: **Golden Boy Promotions, Winky Promotions**
(12-2-06)
Don Stewart

HOLYFIELD FLOORS OQUENDO IN BOUT'S LONE HIGHLIGHT

Wright has relatively easy homecoming against Quartey

Jeff Lacy W 10 Vitali Tsypko

***Tampa, Florida*:** In his first outing since taking a terrible 12-round beating at the hands of super middleweight champ Joe Calzaghe, 168-pound contender Lacy returned with a razor-thin majority-decision win against Tsypko in front of his hometown fans. The somewhat controversial win looked unimpressive until it was reported, a few days afterward, that Lacy suffered a potentially career-threatening rotator cuff injury in the second round.

Despite a career-long 272-day layoff, Lacy, 166½, spent the first two rounds battering the stationary Ukrainian at will with straight right hands. Seemingly petrified of being tagged by the left hook that earned Lacy his nickname, southpaw Tsypko, 167, kept his right hand high.

But after Lacy landed 24 of 55 power-

shots in the initial six minutes of the fight and nearly scored a knockdown with a right hand in the opening ticks of the second, "Left Hook" began to get sloppy and Tsypko started catching him with left-hand counters. From the third round on, Lacy generally pawed with his left hand and clubbed with his healthy right.

Tsypko, who accepted the fight on two weeks notice, was clearly back into the fight by the fourth, when he drove Lacy back with a solid straight left to the face 1:50 into the round. Though his punches weren't as crisp as in the early rounds, Lacy worked his way inside to land enough clubbing right hands to carry the fifth, sixth, and seventh rounds.

The taller Tsypko, 17-2 (10) with 1 no-contest, got back into a rhythm in the eighth behind a stinging right jab. He landed a solid right hook to the head in the final seconds of the round that caused Lacy's whole body to shiver and nearly put him on the canvas. Tsypko continued catching Lacy, 22-1 (17) with 1 no-contest, coming forward with jabs and hard lefts in the last two rounds. Both fighters took turns wobbling each other in the final seconds.

PHOTO BY DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES

"Left Hook" Lacy had to rely on his right to squeak past Tsypko

Michael Pernick scored it 95-95, as did THE RING, but Paul Herman and Mark Streisand each scored it 96-64 for Lacy. All

[THE RING Fighter of the Month]

Presented by EVERLAST

Miguel Cotto

Felix Trinidad is retired (we think). But Trinidad fans suffering from withdrawal should never have to look any farther than Miguel Cotto's next fight to satisfy their "Tito" fix.

In winning a rare Puerto Rican vs. Puerto Rican clash against Carlos Quintana in December, Cotto further staked his claim as heir to Trinidad's legacy—but it goes beyond just the commonality of calling the island nation home. Cotto, like Trinidad, has developed a wildly enthusiastic fan base in America. Cotto, like Trinidad, throws a silky smooth and devastatingly vicious left hook. And Cotto, like Trinidad, has a gift for being able to really bust up his opponents when the leather starts landing.

Recall what a bloody mess he made of Victoriano Sosa in just four rounds. Recall how he beat Muhammad Abdullaev into submission. Recall how unrecognizable he made Paulie Malignaggi's face over the course of 12 rounds. Against Quintana, the fight seemed fairly even through four rounds, and then all of a sudden Quintana's face was swollen and bruised, crushing bodyshots were putting him on the canvas, and, by the end of the fifth, the fight was over. Once again, Cotto had made a quality fighter quit.

And now Cotto is a welterweight, the division where Trinidad enjoyed his longest reign. Time will tell if he can be as good as Trinidad was. But based on the evidence presented against Quintana, he's definitely the most destructive Puerto Rican fighter in the game today. And that will be true whether Tito un-retires again or not.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE

three judges are from Florida. It's worth noting that Streisand gave Lacy the 10th, despite Tsypko holding a 51-18 edge in connects according to CompuBox.

The bout was a rematch of a June 2004 no-contest halted after two rounds when an accidental headbutt opened up an ugly gash on Tsypko's forehead. In the third round of this fight, another accidental clash of heads resulted in a dangerous-looking cut above the left eye of Tsypko, but cutman Malcolm Garrett did an excellent job controlling the gash.

"I thought I won the fight," Tsypko said. "Perhaps I didn't do my best because I only got this fight on short notice. He never hurt me. He was strong, but not that strong."

Television: **HBO**

Promoters: **Golden Boy Promotions, Winky Promotions**

(12-2-06)

Don Stewart

Miguel Cotto KO 5 Carlos Quintana

Atlantic City, New Jersey: Maybe struggling to make 140 pounds really was taking something out of Cotto.

In his welterweight debut, he looked more devastating than he has in a long while, figuring out tricky, unbeaten lefty Quintana and convincing him to quit at the end of a punishing fifth round in which "El Indio" was floored twice by the powerful rising superstar. A throng of 7,412 fans at Boardwalk Hall showed their love for Cotto in this all-Puerto-Rican matchup, and he gave them a little extra reason to love him with his sensational kayo performance.

The bout for the vacant WBA welterweight strap was entertaining right from the start, as the normally elusive southpaw Quintana, 147, Moca, Puerto Rico, stood close to the heavy-handed Cotto, 146, Caguas, Puerto Rico, and traded blows. A pair of left hooks by Cotto buckled Quintana's legs for a moment in the middle of the round, making the difference in a close opening stanza. Quintana, 30, began moving more in the second, but Cotto, 26, continued to track him down with straight rights and sharp left hooks while flashing some slick defense and making Quintana miss frequently.

Quintana had his best round in the third, landing a nice straight left early in the round and moving well to keep Cotto off-balance. A low left hand from Quintana late in the round got him a stern warning from referee Steve Smoger (USA), but Cotto showed no ill effects after taking about 30 seconds to recover. Quintana drew another low-blow warning in the fourth, but he also did some fine work just above the beltline, scoring with a pair of well-placed lefts to the body.

Heading into round five, all three American judges, Glenn Feldman, George Hill, and Melvina Lathan, had the bout even at two rounds apiece (though they all took different routes to get there). The fight wouldn't remain even much longer. Cotto unloaded heavy leather along the ropes, and when Quintana finally escaped, a mouse was noticeable around his left eye and his right eye was marked up as well, plus there was blood coming from his mouth. His face would soon become the least of his concerns, as a hard left to the liver dropped Quintana to the canvas with about 30 seconds to go in the round. An extremely slow count from Smoger allowed Quintana to get back to his feet as the ref reached nine, but Cotto immediately put him down again with a flurry that featured a nice right hand to the head. Again Quintana barely beat what seemed like a friendly count and was saved by the bell.

After much deliberation—Quintana wanted to surrender, his trainer wanted him to go on for one more round—Smoger, upon the advice of ringside physician Dominic Coletta and with some urging from New Jersey commissioner Larry Hazzard, called a halt, with the bout officially going into the books as a fifth-round TKO.

"He surprised me with his hand speed," said Quintana, 23-1 (18). "He was too fast. The bodyshots surprised me. It was his velocity, his quick hands. It's a bad feeling to lose like this as hard as I prepared for this fight, but what can you do? He is pretty fast and he hit me pretty good."

"I tried to get him to the liver the whole fight," explained Cotto, 28-0 (23). "I felt very strong at this weight. I could do anything I wanted to do."

Unfortunately, he's letting the WBA dictate what he does next, as he'll be taking on mediocre mandatory challenger Oktay Urkal in March of '07.

Television: **Showtime**

Promoter: **Top Rank**

(12-2-06)

Eric Raskin

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Once Cotto got going, Quintana fell apart

Antonio Margarito W 12 Joshua Clottey

Atlantic City, New Jersey: Consistent success in boxing requires talent, discipline, desire, and, sometimes, a little luck. WBO welterweight beltholder Margarito appeared to have left some of his talent at

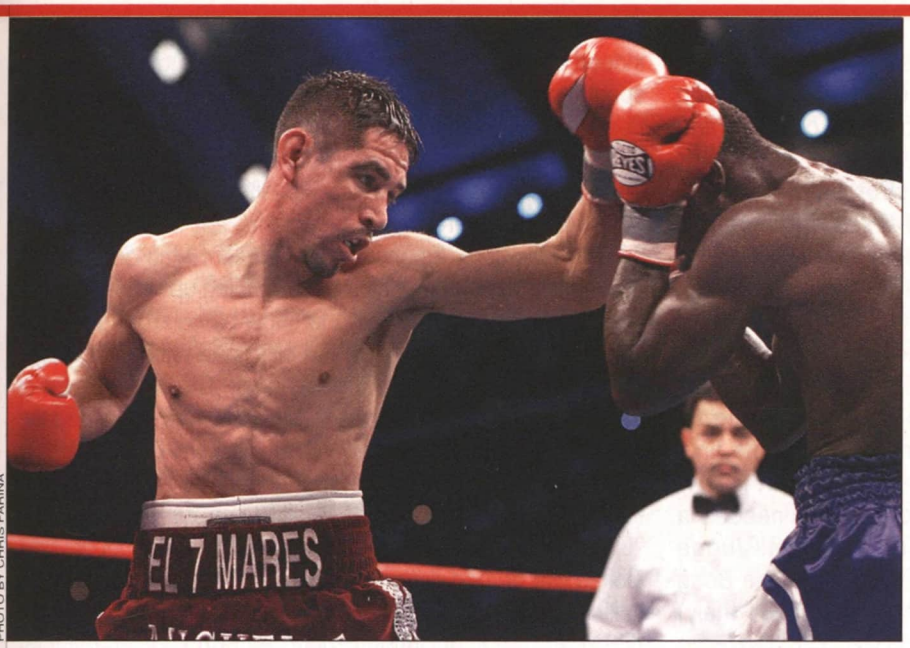


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Clottey did a lot of covering up after injuring his hands

home in his rusty performance against Clottey at Boardwalk Hall, but he exhibited more desire than the challenger did, and he also benefited from a dose of good luck. Clottey was in charge in the ring through four rounds, but he injured both hands, never recovered physically or mentally, and allowed Margarito to score his seventh title defense despite "The Tijuana Tornado" fighting well below his best.

Margarito, 147, is frequently a slow starter, but even so, this was a particularly shaky start for him. For the first four rounds, he couldn't get on track, struggling with the hand speed and high-guard defense of Clottey, 147, Bronx, New York, via Accra, Ghana. Wisely, Margarito aimed for Clottey's body, but Clottey was having no trouble hitting the Mexican's head in return, particularly with his left hook when Margarito would pull back. A huge counter right hand stunned Margarito in the third, and a jarring right uppercut followed. Margarito's response was to get wild, particularly with his uppercut attempts, and the more composed, straighter-punching Clottey took advantage with counters.

Clottey, 30, continued to run the show in the fourth, but late in the round, he injured a knuckle on his left index finger landing a jab. The Ghanaian fought the fifth round as if *both* hands were broken, just covering up and not moving his arms at all while Margarito found a groove with bodyshots, right uppercuts, and long right hands. Clottey was letting Margarito outpunch him about 20-to-1, allowing the titlist to gain confidence and get into the fight on the scorecards.

In his corner, Clottey was gesturing very clearly that his hand was bothering him, intent on making sure everybody knew he had an excuse for what they were going to see over the next several rounds. Margarito, 28, kept chugging along, keeping busy while failing to land any overwhelming shots, and Clottey was offering little in return except for the occasional left hook that he refused to properly turn over. According to statements he made after the fight, Clottey injured his right hand in round seven, making it that much easier for Margarito to pile up the points. The ninth was probably the Mexican's best round, as he pinned Clottey in a corner and whaled away, while Clottey was reduced to hoping to land one fight-turning countershot.

After the 10th round, the ringside doctor examined Clottey closely and seemed on the verge of stopping the fight, but it was allowed to continue. The bodybanging Margarito was outworking Clottey about 8-to-1 in the 11th round, and though Clottey, 30-2 (2) with 1 no-contest, seemed to eke out the final round with a nice right-left combination, he was rallying a few rounds too late.

Judges John Stewart (USA) and Paul Venti (USA) both scored it 116-112 for Margarito, while Eugene Grant (USA) had it far too wide at 118-109. THE RING scored 115-113 for Margarito.

"Ten months off really didn't help me," said Margarito, 34-4 (24) with 1 no-contest, who hadn't been in the ring since a first-round blowout of Manuel Gomez in February '06. "I couldn't get my rhythm early in the fight, but I definitely warmed up starting in the fifth round."

Margarito will have less margin for error against dangerous mandatory challenger Paul Williams, a fight that will happen next—unless Margarito chooses to vacate his belt to preserve a more lucrative fight with Miguel Cotto in June.

Television: **Showtime**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(12-2-06)
Eric Raskin

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam W 12 Monelisi Myekeni

Korat, Thailand: THE RING'S number-one ranked flyweight Pongsaklek extended his remarkable streak of WBC flyweight title defenses to 16 at Suranaree Stadium by scoring a unanimous decision over mandatory challenger "Showtime" Myekeni. The 28-year-old Myekeni gave a good account of himself, at times frustrating the beltholder with his jab and constant movement, but in the end, Pongsaklek was able to use his experience and superior punching power to stun Myekeni several times and win the fight with aggression.

Ten seconds into the first round, southpaw Pongsaklek, 112, Nakhon Rathchasima, Thailand, landed a short right hook, dropping the South African challenger. Myekeni, 111¾, seemingly unfazed, popped up at the count of three and the bout resumed.

In round three, the two fighters accidentally cracked heads, opening a thin slice above the right eye of

Pongsaklek. Referee Bruce McTavish (Australia) quickly stopped the action and called the doctor to the ring to inspect the cut, but the fight was allowed to continue and the cut never became a major factor.

The Thai finished the third round strong, but the fourth was Myekeni's. Although busier at times, his punches lacked sufficient force to keep the relentless titleholder at bay, and by the finish of the sixth round, Pongsaklek looked confident and on his way to an easy points win.

Open scoring was used in this bout after rounds four and eight, so in fact, Pongsaklek knew he was on his way to a comfortable win with four rounds to go, leading by seven, seven, and nine points on the cards. In the final rounds, the South African made a desperate effort to rally and won a couple of the late rounds, but he needed a knockout and never came close to getting it. Judge Benjamin Rendon (Mexico) scored it 119-108, Jae-Bong Kim (Korea) had it 118-110, and Franco Ciminale (Italy) saw it 117-111, all for Pongsaklek, 63-2 (31). THE RING scored it 116-111.

Myekeni, 21-3 (8), stated afterward that it was his toughest fight to date, but overall, he was happy with his performance. "His experience made the difference," he said. "It was good experience and I'm disappointed, but I will be back. I'll be champion one day."

The Thai plans to have made 20 title defenses by the end of 2007, and hopefully some of the upcoming ones will involve more quality opponents like Myekeni, who probably ranks among the three or four best challengers Pongsaklek, 29, has faced in his long reign. Pongsaklek's next bout is scheduled to be in Japan, against an opponent to be determined.

Promoter: **Petchyindee Promotions**
(11-17-06)
Scott Mallon

indeed a knockdown. Viloria, however, failed to capitalize. He spent most of the middle rounds coming forward without any head movement and not throwing that many punches. He was giving rounds away simply because Nino was busier.

In the ninth, Nino, 30, used his left jab to set up his right, and just as he threw the left, Viloria, 25, landed the best punch of the fight. A right to the head sent Nino down again, costing him a round that he'd been winning up to that point.

Nino, 24-2-2 (10), closed the show by controlling the last two rounds with stiff left jabs and overhand rights that caught Viloria, 19-1-1 (12), high on the head. The huge crowd of 18,276 fans at the Thomas & Mack Center—the second highest in the venue's history and the third highest in Las Vegas boxing history—were on their feet as these little guys fought hard throughout the 12 rounds.

The fight was declared a majority draw even though Nino looked like he had done enough to pull out a close win, prevailing 115-113 on THE RING'S scorecard. Carol Castellano (USA) and Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) both scored it 113-113, while Dave Moretti (USA) had it 115-112 for Nino.

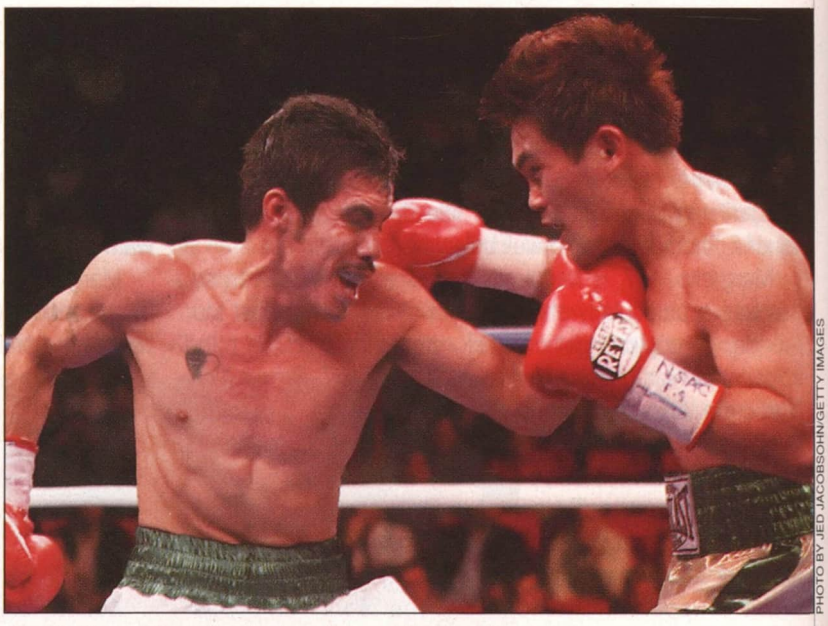


PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Commission could overturn the draw between Nino and Viloria

Unfortunately for Nino and for the sport of boxing, a week after the fight a report surfaced that stated Nino failed his postfight drug test. He tested positive for amphetamines, and was suspended by the Nevada State Athletic Commission shortly thereafter. There is also the likelihood he will be stripped of his title, though Nino was denying any wrongdoing as of press time.

Meanwhile, there is still hope for Viloria, who always looks like he can do more in the ring but just doesn't step it up. He is young and can learn for the future—and will probably get a shot at the vacant belt if Nino is stripped.

Television: **HBO Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(11-18-06)
Wayne McCullough

Omar Nino W 12 Brian Viloria

Las Vegas, Nevada: When Nino and Viloria met in August '06, Viloria was favored to easily retain the WBC light flyweight belt, but Nino won a wide decision. In their rematch on the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales III undercard, Viloria fought much better, threw more punches than in the first meeting, got credit for two knockdowns, and still couldn't take his title back, getting only a draw.

Viloria, 108, Waipahu, Hawaii, started fast, landing left hooks to Nino's head. Nino, 107, Guadalajara, Mexico, used his quick left jab to Viloria's head and body throughout the contest.

In the third, Viloria landed a right hand to his opponent's head, seemingly shaking him. Then in the fifth, Viloria threw a left hook that appeared to miss Nino, but the Mexican fell to the canvas and referee Joe Cortez (USA) ruled that it was

Krzysztof Wlodarczyk W 12 Steve Cunningham

Warsaw, Poland: For Cunningham, the opportunity to win an alphabet title to have something to bring to the table and increase the marketability of a match with THE RING cruiserweight champion O'Neil Bell convinced him to surrender home advantage and venture out to Poland to challenge for the vacant IBF cruiserweight title. But he was left to rue this decision when he dropped a controversial split verdict to Wlodarczyk, 194, Warsaw, Poland, at the Torwar Sport Hall.

Cunningham, 193, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had earned a title shot by outpointing Kelvin "Koncrete" Davis by a wide margin in an eliminator last September. Wlodarczyk is almost unknown outside of his native Poland, but, with the possible exception of Tomasz Adamek, he is probably the most popular fighter in the country. His reputation was that of a dangerous counterpuncher with considerable knockout power and a good chin. He turned professional in 2000 and his only defeat came in 2003 in Germany when an accidental clash of heads forced his fight with Pavel Melkomian to go to the scorecards. But Cunningham was warned about the difficulty of the task he faced by joint promoter Leon Margules of Warriors Boxing. "This a very tough fight for both guys," said Margules. "Steve is a great boxer and Krzysztof is a dangerous puncher and home advantage will be a great plus for him."

So it proved to be. Cunningham was the aggressor through much of the fight, getting off one-two combinations, with Wlodarczyk countering with accurate combinations. When Wlodarczyk found his rhythm, he began to mix it up to the head and body, which brought roars of approval from the home crowd. Neither man, however, appeared to gain a clear edge, with much of their work landing wide of the mark.

Wlodarczyk, 25, did land a right hook to the head in the sixth before Cunningham, 30, came back with a succession of lefts in the seventh and a solid uppercut in round eight, but the toll on both fighters appeared to be minimal. The Pole looked confident that he had done enough when the final bell rang, though the disparity in the scoring was ridiculous.

Charlie Dwyer (USA) scored the fight 119-109 for Cunningham, while Wallfried Rollert (Germany) and Wlodzimierz Kromka (Poland) scored 116-112 and 115-113, respectively, for Wlodarczyk. THE RING scored the bout 114-114, but Cunningham, 19-1 (10), claimed that he suffered a major miscarriage of justice.

"This is my livelihood. This is how I put food on my table. I won the fight," he protested. "I demand an immediate rematch. This time let's do it in the States. He may have got the decision and maybe he has that belt, but I know I beat him."

Wlodarczyk, 37-1 (27), was unmoved. "You can say what you want, but I have the title," he said. "I won the early rounds and the late rounds and I knew always that I was in control."

The referee was Tony Weeks (USA).

Promoters: **Warriors Boxing, Hammer Knockout**

(11-25-2006)

Brian Doogan

PHOTO BY TORU MANAKA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bloody Hasegawa fires back at Garcia

Hozumi Hasegawa W 12 Genaro Garcia

Tokyo, Japan: Southpaw counterpuncher Hasegawa, 117¾, Kobe, Japan, had a tough night, but still retained the WBC bantam belt in his third defense as he floored perennial top contender Garcia, 117¾, Puebla, Mexico, in the fourth and eighth, withstood Garcia's persistent body bombardments, and pounded out a unanimous verdict at Nihon Budokan.

The main event of an alphabet title twinbill, this was an action-packed thriller. Garcia's prior claim to fame was a kayo of Rafael Marquez six years ago, and he showed some of the same punching power in this contest. The Mexican challenger was aggressive right from the outset and began stalking the backpedaling titlist. The lefty Hasegawa smartly kept his distance and countered the onrushing Garcia with lefts followed by solid right hooks.

In the closing seconds of the fourth, Hasegawa, 25, connected with a southpaw left uppercut to the button and sent Garcia, 29, to the deck. Garcia, however, wasn't dissuaded. No matter how many of Hasegawa's counters he absorbed, Garcia never stopped coming forward and aiming at his opponent's breadbasket.

The fight began to turn in the sixth. Garcia became more and more aggressive, sometimes pinning the titleholder on the ropes with barrages of bodypunches. Hasegawa kept retreating, allowing Garcia to remain in command with his continual aggressiveness in the seventh.

Garcia was continuing to close the gap on the scorecards in the eighth, dominating the round with his body punches, but then a terrible clash of heads spoiled his momentum. Hasegawa suffered a big laceration on the right eyebrow, and Garcia a rather small cut over the forehead. Referee Vic Drakulich (USA), based on the WBC rules, deducted a point from Garcia—and then took a point from Hasegawa. The crowd was bewildered, though it was a correct application of the rule, regardless of the logic of the rule itself. Moments after the action resumed, Hasegawa exploded with a well-timed southpaw right hook to the button, dropping Garcia and earning the beltholder a two-point round that he was on his way to losing.

Garcia maintained his pressure on his retreating opponent in the ninth, forcing him to the ropes with persistent bodyshots. In round 10, Hasegawa, bleeding profusely from the clash of heads two rounds earlier, became more aggressive and carried the round. Having expended a lot of energy in the 10th, Hasegawa looked tired in the 11th, and Garcia scored with combos to the face and midsection, often pinning the beltholder in the corner.

The final session saw Hasegawa, 21-2 (7), aware that he was leading on points, utilize a strategy of circling and slipping punches, doing so skillfully enough that the determined Garcia, 37-5 (22), couldn't touch him. Adding to Garcia's frustration was the fact that he lost another point for boring in with his head, although, as it turned out, one point made no difference. Judges Dave Moretti (USA) and Anek Hongtongkam (Thailand) both tallied 114-109, and Hubert Minn (USA) saw it 114-110, all in favor of the bloodied Hasegawa. THE RING had it closer at 113-111.

Promoter: **Teiken Promotions**
(11-13-06)
Joe Koizumi

PHOTO BY TORU YAMANAKA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Eagle is on-target with right to Trejo's face

Eagle Kyowa W 12 Lorenzo Trejo

Tokyo, Japan: WBC 105-pound titleholder Eagle, 105, Tokyo, barely kept his belt as he floored challenger Trejo, 105, Sonora, Mexico, in the third, but hit the deck twice himself in the sixth and desperately fought back to win a hairline unanimous decision over 12 give-and-take rounds in the co-feature to Hasegawa-Garcia at Nihon Budokan. It was the worst performance of Eagle's title reign, as he didn't seem in great shape and probably took Trejo lightly, but he pulled out the win anyway.

Eagle, 27, dominated the first three rounds with ease. Furthermore, he decked Trejo with an overhand right to the temple in the third, leaving the crowd confident that he was on his way to an early victory over the prohibitive underdog challenger.

The tide, however, turned in the fourth, as Trejo, 29, became the aggressor. He was punching a lot, but he wasn't landing much—until the sixth, when he shockingly dropped Eagle with a looping right to the face. The beltholder stood up and resumed fighting, only to be decked by another roundhouse right. The wild Mexican went all-out for the finish, but the bell came to Eagle's rescue just as he seemed ready to be kayoed.

The minute's rest allowed Eagle to make a remarkable recovery, and he dominated the next two rounds by cleverly outpunching the willing mixer. Trejo accelerated his energetic attack and made it a brawl in the ninth. Eagle showed his power in round 11, when he suddenly turned loose with a flurry of punches to hurt the Mexican. But it was Trejo who was in command in the final stanza, as Eagle, 17-1 (6), look tired after his all-out rallies in the previous round, whereas Trejo, 28-15 (15), was still fresh and pugnacious.

In the end, Gale Van Hoy (USA) and Lynn Carter (USA) both scored it 113-112, and Dongahn Park (Korea) tallied 114-113, all in favor of the defending titlist. The referee was Mike Griffin (Canada).

Promoter: **Teiken Promotions**
(11-13-06)
Joe Koizumi

Ruslan Chagaev W 12 John Ruiz

Dusseldorf, Germany: "The Quiet Man" went the only way he could possibly go, now that he no longer has the loud Norman Stone by his side: quietly. With a new trainer, Manny Siaca—who has handled 28 alphabet titleholders—and a "fresh focus and desire," Ruiz, 238, Las Vegas, Nevada, via Chelsea, Massachusetts, declared that he would get himself back into the heavyweight title picture, but Chagaev, 229¼, Hamburg, Germany, via Andizhan, Uzbekistan, had other plans. Instead it was "The White Tyson" who maneuvered himself into title contention with a comprehensive victory on points at the Burgwaechter Castello.

Beaten by a controversial majority decision when he defended the WBA heavyweight title against Nicolay Valuev in December 2005, Ruiz finally looked beaten down by all the years of endless criticism of his mauling style. Chagaev's quick left cross and solid chin were the final persuasive factors in Ruiz seemingly reaching an inevitable decision about a career that reached its height in three encounters with Evander Holyfield but was never the kind to endear him to boxing fans.

"He came to fight, and I haven't been fighting lately," Ruiz, 34, reflected sadly. "I want to go home now and not think about boxing. I was just pretty much out of sync. I would have fought a lot better if I'd stuck with Manny's plan, but a couple of times I got back to my old self. I was a little lazy in a way. That was my old self. What can I say? I don't get close decisions in Germany. I'm not too disappointed."

The southpaw Chagaev, 22-0-1 (17), became Valuev's mandatory challenger with this win, achieved by assertively throwing out his right jab and crossing and hooking his left frequently and accurately. At 6'1", his problem is that he is not a physically imposing heavyweight, especially when set against the gargantuan proportions of Valuev, but he is more aggressive than Ruiz and this may count for something.

From early in the fight, Chagaev, 28, achieved success with fast lead lefts that caused Ruiz' nose to drip blood as early as the second round. Eventually, Ruiz' face would become a sorry mess with dark blotches developing around his right eye while the inside of his mouth was also cut. He just could not get away from Chagaev's pinpoint, powerful punches.

The southpaw jab worked well for the Eastern European too, and the rounds took on a grim and similar pattern, Ruiz taking shots and not landing too much effectively in return. Entering the late rounds, he required a wholesale change in his acquiescent game plan if he was to turn the tide. Ironically, it was a switch in Chagaev's tactics that gave him a chance. Spurred on by his corner, Chagaev went looking for a grandstand finish, and Ruiz at last was able to hit home with meaningful punches to the body and uppercuts that were drilled in between his opponent's guard to take the ninth, 10th, and 11th rounds. But it was too late to be anything more than academic.

Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) scored 117-111 and Pinij Prayadsub (Thailand) 116-112, both for Chagaev. Somehow, Jesus Cova (Venezuela) saw it 115-114 for Ruiz. THE RING scored 116-112 for Chagaev. The referee was Derek Milham (Australia).

"I just want to go home and see my family and relax," said Ruiz, 41-7-1 (28) with 1 no-contest, with the resigned look of a man who knew that maybe it was time to stay home as far as boxing is concerned.

Promoter: **Sauerland Events**
(11-18-06)
Brian Doogan

Steve Molitor KO 5 Michael Hunter

Hartlepool, England: Before leaving his Ontario home for a far-flung foreign battlefield, Molitor made a simple vow: He would bring back the IBF junior featherweight title for his brother, Jeremy. A 2002 Commonwealth Games gold medalist in the amateurs, the older of the fighting Molitor brothers was considered the better prospect until he committed a heinous crime, stabbing to death his 21-year-old ex-girlfriend, for which he is serving a life sentence for second-degree murder. But the brothers remain close and Molitor, 121½, Toronto, Ontario, made good on his promise when he outclassed and stopped the hometown favorite, Hunter, 121¾, Hartlepool, England, at the Borough Hall to claim the belt stripped from THE RING 122-pound champion Israel Vasquez.

"I watched the re-run of the fight with my brother at Millhaven Penitentiary and it meant the world to me," said Molitor, 23-0 (9). "He made a bad decision, but he's still my brother. He wasn't able to be in England to see me win the title, but he was able to share it with me."

The 26-year-old Canadian never looked like he'd be leaving England without the title from the moment he put his slick boxing skills to use against Hunter, 26-1-1 (12), who gave up the European title to secure this opportunity. An aggressive, relentless puncher with a seriously impressive work ethic, Hunter had also picked up the British and Commonwealth titles on a confident march toward the edges of world-class competition. But Molitor acquainted him with a level of performance he was unprepared for, much to the disappointment of the capacity crowd of almost 1,500 inside the claustrophobic little hall. The 28-year-old fellow southpaw was just no match for Molitor's talent and conviction, which remained diamond-hard even in the hostile environs.

A former sparring partner for Mexican legend Erik Morales, Molitor used lateral movement and sharp, sporadic bursts to dictate the pace of the opening rounds. Soon Hunter became the hunted as Molitor stepped up his attack in the third, though close-quarter engagement was supposed to be the Englishman's territory. Ultimately, Hunter just could not impose himself, as he had in all but one drawn encounter on an otherwise formidable record. Molitor was just a step above anyone he had previously fought.

This became abundantly clear in the fourth round when Hunter was caught by a powerful straight left hand and a follow-up right jab that sent him to the canvas. British referee Phil Edwards picked up the count and Hunter was up at three. He survived the subsequent onslaught before the bell intervened, but in the fifth he was utterly dismantled. Not renowned previously for prodigious power, Molitor took his time before taking advantage of an opening that saw him hammer his left hand again into Hunter's face with surprising force. Hunter collapsed on his knees and shook his head in submission as the referee counted him out at the 1:32 mark. Molitor was overjoyed.

"It was set up for Hunter to win, the British newspapers reporting that I must not have read the script," Molitor reflected, his stoppage victory a script he had written entirely on his own. Hunter indicated that he would jump up to featherweight when he resumes his career.

Promoter: **Matchroom**

(11-10-06)

Brian Doogan

PHOTO BY MATTHEW LEWIS/GETTY IMAGES

Hunter became the prey when Molitor turned tiger

Evander Holyfield W 12 Fres Oquendo

San Antonio, Texas: Winning something called the USBA Gulf Coast Regional title might not have gotten him much closer to his goal of becoming undisputed heavyweight champion of the world again, but Holyfield did beat a credible opponent in Oquendo, scoring his most significant victory since he beat Hasim Rahman in 2002. And that should count for something. It nothing else, it bought the 44-year-old former champion some more time in his latest comeback bid.

And, just maybe, a fight against a top-ranked contender. That's not good news for everyone who wants to see this future Hall of Famer exit boxing in the very near future.

Neither is this: Holyfield, at the very least, showed in beating Oquendo by unanimous decision that he is not the same fighter who performed so poorly in a loss to Larry Donald in November 2004 that the New York State Athletic Commission revoked his license.

Part of the reason Holyfield prevailed was that Oquendo seemed much more intent on surviving this bout at the Alamodome than winning it. At age 33, Oquendo, 220, is 11 years younger than Holyfield and, if nothing else, he proved his legs are anything but shot. But that was about all Oquendo proved. At times, he boxed and moved. Mostly, he just moved. Out of harm's way.

"It takes two people to make a fight. He wouldn't fight me," Holyfield complained afterward.

Oquendo's first punch—a right hand—seconds into the bout landed flush on Holyfield's chin. Moments later, Holyfield, 217¾, knocked down Oquendo with a sharp right to the temple. Oquendo stumbled backward on his way to the canvas but sprang to his feet as referee Laurence Cole (USA) began issuing a mandatory eight-count.

Holyfield, 40-8-2 (26), appeared to score a second knockdown in the sixth with a series of bodypunches that sent Oquendo to the canvas. But Cole ruled that the punches were low—even though replays appeared to indicate they were on the beltline—and gave Oquendo time to recover.

Oquendo, 26-4 (16), had his moments, including two big right hands and a left hook to the jaw that jolted Holyfield in the fifth. Many of

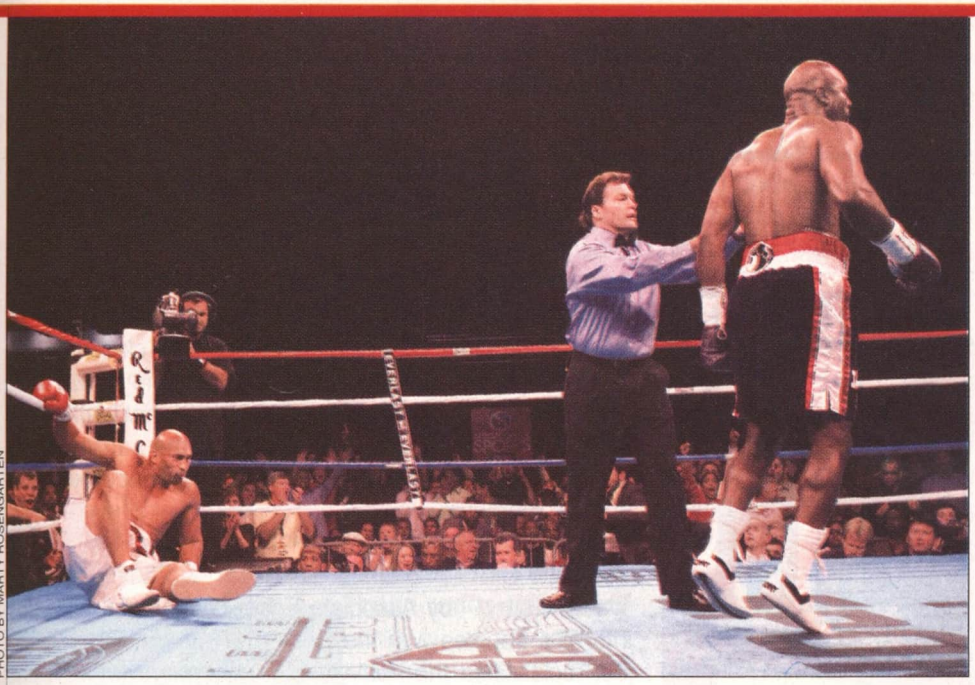


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Holyfield floors Oquendo in bout's lone highlight

the rounds saw little action, which prompted the announced crowd of 10,045 to boo.

But all three judges scored the fight for Holyfield. Joel Elizondo (USA) and Rick Crocker (USA) both had it 114-113 for Holyfield, while Wilfredo Esperon (USA) saw it 116-111 for the former champ. THE RING disagreed, scoring the fight 115-112 in favor of Oquendo.

"I'm not terribly impressed with myself," Holyfield said. "But I got the job done."

"It was robbery," Oquendo protested.

But Lou DiBella, Oqeundo's promoter, thought the decision was justified.

"I was very disappointed with my guy," Dibella said. "He simply didn't do enough to win."

Television: **Fox Sports Pay-Per-View**
Promoters: **M&M Sports, Real Deal Events**
(11-10-06)
John Whisler

Nobuo Nashiro W 12 Eduardo Garcia

Osaka, Japan: Unbeaten WBA super fly titlist Nashiro, 114¾, Osaka, Japan, kept the belt as he was aggressive all the way and withstood the challenger's occasional assaults to pound out a unanimous decision over Garcia, 114¾, Naucalpan, Mexico, over 12 heats. Judges Rafael Carabano (Venezuela) and Kwanho Jang (Korea) both saw it 117-112, and Chalerm Prayadsab (Thailand) had it 118-110, all for Nashiro, who was making his first defense since capturing the belt via upset 10th-round TKO over Martin Castillo in July. The referee was Mark Nelson (USA).

Nashiro, 25, had once employed Garcia, 26, as a sparring partner, so the fighters were quite familiar with each other. Nashiro got off to a good start by scoring with solid right crosses and heavy left uppercuts to the side of the belly in the first session. Garcia responded with a flurry of punches with inferior precision. Garcia had an upright style and tried to utilize his longer reach, but Nashiro showed impressive defense in averting the Mexican's busy combinations. The Japanese beltholder was in command in the first three rounds with ease.

The beginning of the fourth saw Garcia turn loose with furious rallies. Nashiro, however, defended himself well and retaliated with more effective combos to the taller challenger. Garcia, nicknamed "Bambino" due to his baby face, threw many punches in the fifth, but Nashiro blocked his combinations and fought back with accurate blows. It was a close round.

In rounds six and seven, though, Nashiro looked so impressive that it seemed he was on his way to scoring a knockout. His effective bodyshots slowed down Garcia, and his combinations (left uppercuts to the belly followed by right crosses to the face) often found the target.

Garcia, however, displayed impressive resilience, throwing combos from all angles in the eighth. His assault opened a laceration over Nashiro's left eyebrow. The ninth went to Nashiro, who fought back hard and blocked Garcia's blows well.

The boyish-looking Mexican showed his best in the 10th, when he unleashed strong, long rights followed by solid left hooks in combination. By the end of the round, however, Garcia had very little left in the tank. Nashiro took back the initiative in the 11th by battering the fading Garcia with a fusillade of punches. The titlist rained fierce combinations on his opponent, pinning him to the ropes. Garcia, 17-5 (7), came out fighting in the 12th, but it was Nashiro who showed better stamina and busier combinations to dominate the final stanza.

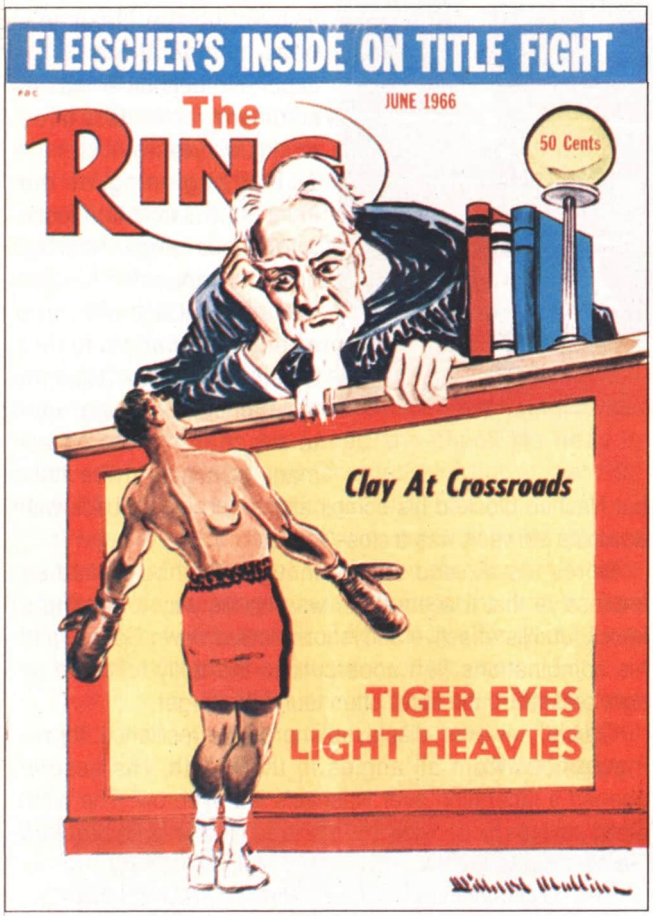
It was a decent win for Nashiro, but not as dominant as the crowd had expected. Nashiro, 9-0 (5), said, "I feel sorry not to be able to satisfy the crowd with a big victory. Garcia showed his heart and was simply stronger than I had expected." Nashiro will be obliged to face Castillo in a rematch next due to an agreement in their fight contract, and if successful, he will then meet the WBA's mandatory challenger, Alexander Munoz—who is somehow ranked ahead of Castillo despite a pair of head-to-head losses to him.

Promoters: **Mutoh Promotions, Teiken Promotions**
(12-2-06)
Joe Koizumi ■

THE RING Flashback

Through the years with "The Bible of Boxing"

June 1966



COVER STORY: "Clay At Crossroads" refers to the career-threatening problems that Muhammad Ali (who THE RING obstinately persisted in calling Cassius Clay, even though Ali had announced his name change the previous year) was beginning to have with both the U.S. government and the boxing establishment. The cover illustration, by William Mullins, is a classic, with Ali pleading his case before a judge who looks like Uncle Sam, minus the star-spangled top hat. Although there is no article inside the issue with the same headline as the cover, there are four stories concerning Ali and his problems.

"Invite Uncle Sam's Amity? 'I Can't,' Clay Tells Ring" by Associate Editor Dan Daniels delved into Ali's troubles with the Selective Service, which had just reclassified the heavyweight champion as 1A, and the how his career could be derailed.

The headline was taken from the following exchange between Ali and Nat Fleischer, which took place in Toronto the day before Ali's defense against George Chuvalo.

"You can do big things for yourself, and for boxing and the heavyweight title, if you come out and say that you are ready to do anything Uncle Sam asks of you," said Fleischer.

"Nat, I can't," replied Clay. "I can't."

"Chuvalo, Losing To Clay, Finds Name Of The Game Still Is Boxing" was Fleischer's account of Ali's 15-round decision over the Canadian strongman at Maple Leaf Gardens.

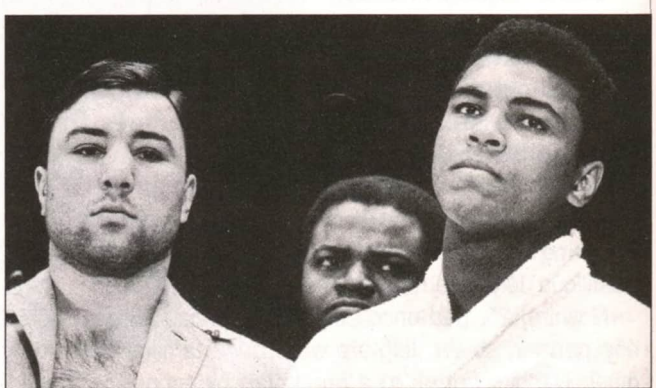
"The undefeated heavyweight world titleholder left-jabbed his opponent silly," wrote Fleischer. "He hamburgered Chuvalo's face, partially closed his eyes, puffed his phizz into a blubbery mass, and left 13,918 spectators, who paid a gross gate of $160,000, wondering what was keeping George on his feet."

Fleischer also took the Toronto commission and the

World Champions

(for the period ended April 20, 1966)

Heavyweight: Cassius Clay
Light Heavyweight: Jose Torres
Middleweight: Dick Tiger
Welterweight: Emile Griffith
Junior Welterweight: Carlos Hernandez
Lightweight: Carlo Ortiz
Junior Welterweight: Flash Elorde
Featherweight: Vincente Saldivar
Bantamweight: Fighting Harada
Flyweight: Salvatore Burruni



Chuvalo and Ali at Toronto weigh-in

WBA to task for refusing to recognize the bout as a world championship fight, calling commission chairman Merv McKenzie, a "tub thumper for the silly WBA."

"Clay-Johnson Parallels Warn Cassius Beware" by Al Buck explored the similarities between Ali and former heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, who also had his problems with the U.S. government.

"The cause of their difficulties were self-imposed," wrote Buck. "The results were the same. Both incurred the wrath of the American people. As was Johnson before him, Clay was forced to defend the title on foreign land."

"Ring Champion Should Be Set For Army If Called" by Dan Daniel concerned Joe Louis' reaction to Ali's stance on the war in Vietnam. Louis had been ready to sign on with Ali as an advisor, but changed his mind when the American Legion criticized Ali.

Louis didn't agree with Ali's stance on the Vietnam war

"Any man fit enough to be champion of the world is fit enough for military service," said Louis, who was in the Army for four years during World War II. "Have I tried to help him? Too late. He will listen to nobody outside of the Black Muslims."

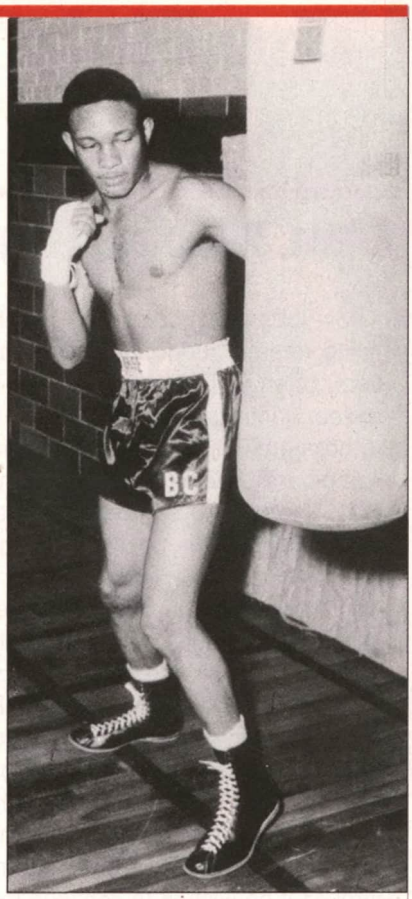
"Carnera, Near 60, Tosses Pizzas, Scotch In His Deli" by Harry Tres Passos was about the former heavyweight champion and his wife, Pina, running a combination delicatessen and liquor shop in Glendale, California.

"Carnera surprisingly came out of retirement to open this new enterprise," wrote Passos. "It had been understood that he had made enough money wrestling to sit around and take it easy. However, it appears that Primo did not fare so well on the mat that he could quit on his take."

"No More Welters? What About Me? Cokes Asks Emile" by Alan Eskew was a plea from Curtis Cokes, THE RING's fourth-rated welterweight, for a title shot at 147-pound champion Emile Griffith, who said he was going to move up to middleweight because he'd run out of challengers at welter. Cokes and his manager, Doug Lord, begged to disagree.

"Cokes holds a win over top-rated Luis Rodriguez, and had him on the floor," said Lord.

Cokes never did get a crack at Griffith, but when Griffith moved up to 160 pounds, the Texan won the vacant title with a 15-round decision over Jean Josselin in November '66.

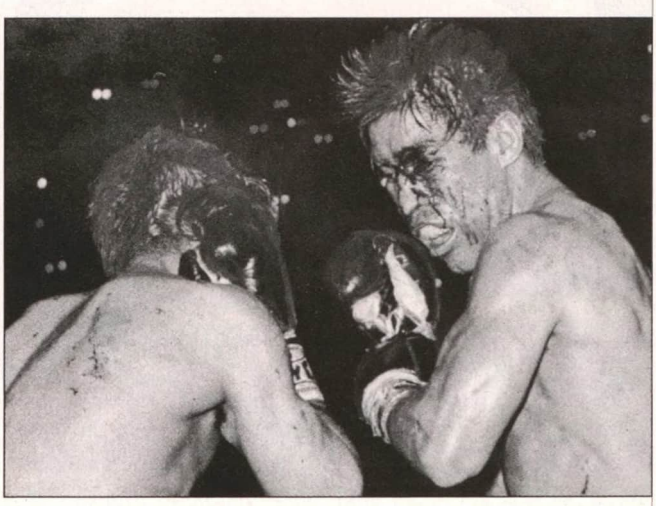


Cokes wanted a shot at the welter title

"Rojas' Third Round Kayo Of Moreno Sent L.A. Wild" by John Hall described the blood-soaked featherweight brawl between Raul Rojas and Ricardo "Little Bird" Moreno that not only sold out the 10,000-seat Los Angeles Olympic, but also attracted another 1,000 to watch the grudge match on closed-circuit TV at the Orpheum Theater.

The give-and-take slugfest saw Rojas win the opening round, only to be almost out on his feet in the second when Moreno staggered him with a left hook with just 10 seconds remaining in the round. The pair traded evenly in the third, but Moreno suffered several serious cuts, and the bout was stopped between the third and fourth rounds by Dr. Jack Useem, much to the dismay of the loser and the crowd.

"If the heavyweights ever fought like this, boxing would be in for its biggest boom in history," said happy promoter Aileen Eaton. ■



Moreno's cuts terminated brawl with Rojas

By Margaret Goodman, M.D.

Can Neutrality Exist Among Boxing Officials?

Few jobs are more sought after than a professional boxing referee, judge, or physician. Individuals train for years, often working their way up through the ranks in amateur contests. The competition stiffens depending on the boxing commission and the kinds of fights held, i.e., championship bouts, televised fights, and pay-per-view cards. The amount of money earned will differ depending on the profile of the contest. Recognition is mesmerizing for many. As visibility increases, so does pressure on the official to maintain neutrality, and the smallest controversy can lower confidence in their capabilities.

During the Juan Manuel Marquez-Jimrex Jaca bout on a November 24, 2006, card held in El Paso, Texas, many were appalled at the comments from referee Laurence Cole during a break in the eighth-round action. Cole took Marquez to the ring physician to have his heavily bleeding cut, which had been opened by an accidental headbutt, inspected. Following a brief examination, Cole asked Marquez if he wished to continue given he was ahead on the scorecards. If a fighter sustains an injury from an accidental foul, and the fight is stopped after four complete rounds, the winner will be determined by the fighter ahead at the time of stoppage.

Immediately following the interchange, conspiracy theories spun from every direction. Technically, no one other than the commission-assigned scorekeepers and the sanctioning organization supervisor (if a championship bout) should know the result of a fight before it is announced. This includes the referee, judges, and ring physicians. It should have been impossible for the referee to know the actual scores in the Marquez-Jaca fight.

The Texas Athletic Commission imposed a one-year suspension on Cole for what he did. He has a right to appeal the suspension, but had not as of presstime.

Ethics in boxing is questioned more often than decisions. Barry Druxman, professional boxing official since 1970 and president of the International Professional Ring Officials, an organization for training ring officials, defines ethical behavior for officials as, "acting in a professional and totally unbiased manner, basing professional decisions on what is going on in the ring and nothing else."

HBO's Larry Merchant, whose network broadcast the Marquez-Jaca bout, believes a ring official should be an impartial enforcer of the rules. "Many officials do not understand they have to protect against appearances of favoritism. If you are dealing with the public, it is important to *be* right, but it is imperative to *seem* right." Merchant noted. "We are lucky the referee's comments during the Marquez fight did not affect the outcome. The worst part is it gives an appearance of familiarity. Honest mistakes occur in the heat of battle, but it may have revealed something we didn't want to know."

PHOTO BY J.C. DIAZ/FIGHTWIREIMAGES.COM

Cole shouldn't have told Marquez the score, despite the cut

Impartiality is a difficult concept to project for an official. Boxing and the people in it comprise a small, often incestuous world. At a fight, you see the same officials, the same cornermen, and the same fighters. It can be difficult for an official not to cross the line and become too familiar. Promoters typically have fights in the same jurisdictions, which add to the perception of a house fighter or a house decision.

Referee Kenny Bayless has been in boxing for 30 years. He began his

career as an amateur referee and as an inspector for the Nevada State Athletic Commission and became a professional referee in 1991. His philosophy is one of developing integrity.

"Integrity isn't just given to you," said Bayless. "You have to earn it."

Before a fight, Bayless separates himself in a neutral area so he can get in his zone.

"Neutrality is demonstrated through consistency," he said. "If I say 'good luck' to the red corner, I must say 'good luck' to the blue corner. You can never allow the public to think you are doing something extra for a fighter or a corner."

The 1996 Professional Boxing Safety Act (BSA) states, "No member or employee of a boxing commission, no person who administers or enforces State boxing laws, and no member of the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) may belong to, contract with or receive any compensation from any person who sanctions, arranges, or promotes professional boxing matches or who otherwise has a financial interest in an active boxer currently registered with a boxing registry."

Conflicts of interest involving boxing officials occur on many different levels and are commonly ignored. According to ABC chief legal counsel Bruce Spizler, "Enforcement of the 'Conflicts of Interest' provision in the BSA may be via the Attorney General of the United States or the applicable state. A person who violates this provision may be criminally prosecuted in a federal court."

The ABC can contact a commission regarding an offending official, but they have no express authority under Federal Law to take action. Few jurisdictions, if any, act on such accusations other than to issue a confidential warning.

Although payment to officials may be via state check, the money still originates from the promotional company hosting the event. The bigger the fight, the higher the payment. Official assignments are frequently not based on skill alone. In Nevada, prior to assigning officials to a championship bout, the sanctioning organization will forward an approved list of referees and judges. Promoters, on their own or on recommendation of their fighters, will also have input. Then, the commission will make the final decision. If a judge had a criticized score going against a promoter's fighter, or a referee called a low blow when the fighter/promoter thought it inappropriate, that official may not be assigned to an important fight on *any* of the promoter's cards. Many can dispute it, but these factors can weigh on the minds of officials. They are only human. Everyone wants an edge, and if the assignments of certain officials will not alter what takes place in the ring, it can give one camp an advantage that might translate into the difference between winning and losing.

Some referees are almost as well known as the fighters. Therefore, any appearance of a conflict needs to be avoided. Druxman notes, "Officials can avoid conflicts of interest by not engaging in social activities with boxers, their managers, or promoters in any setting prior to or after the fight; not expressing opinions publicly, and informing their commission of any potential act that may be misconstrued."

This also applies equally to ring physicians. According to former Nevada Commission Chief Physician Dr. Flip Homansky, "If you're a ring physician, you have to be neutral. And, if you attend to a fighter outside the ring [in your private practice] there is a different set of principles to follow."

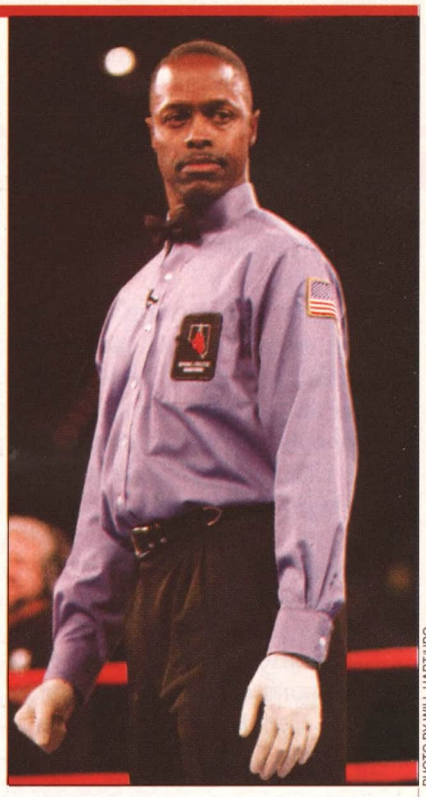


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Referee Bayless believes that neutrality is "demonstrated through consistency"

I ascribe to the philosophy that if a doctor wants to be involved caring for a fighter outside the ring, then he shouldn't be a ring physician. Nevada has a statute against this, but it still goes on. In several places commission physicians augment their pay by having fighters undergo costly prefight testing through their medical office, postfight aftercare, and accept paid trips by sanctioning organizations. The physician's intention may be to solely provide adequate medical care, but eventually the fighter might come to that doctor for treatment of an otherwise undisclosed medical ailment prior to a fight, or request medication that could give an athlete an unfair advantage or disadvantage.

How can a ring physician be neutral if he has a private fiduciary relationship with a fighter? Even the Hippocratic Oath can't erase the appearance of impropriety in boxing under these circumstances.

The job of a ring physician can be extremely seductive, and physicians are frequently the ones recommending if a fight should stop, or whether or not a boxer should be licensed. We all want to be liked and respected, but in boxing that respect may be disingenuous and relate more to a fight where the doctor did or did not intervene irrespective of the validity of the decision.

Officials need to understand every move they make both inside and outside the ring is constantly monitored. Consequently, it must pass the smell test. If conflicts or merely the appearance of conflicts of interest are ignored, an official's neutrality is not only lost for a specific event, but forever. ■

Come Out Writing

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, THE RING, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

Pacquiao-Barrera II Must Happen

Now that Manny Pacquiao has won his trilogy with Erik Morales, he needs to fight Marco Antonio Barrera again and shut him up once and for all. Barrera made a lot of excuses when he lost to Manny in 2003. He should shut up and admit that Pacquiao was a better fighter that night. Moreover, Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions should put their differences aside and give the boxing fans the best 130-pound fight in the history of boxing.

RAM DULJO
Cebu City, Philippines

Time To Get Out, "El Terrible"

I've watched Erik "El Terrible" Morales for the last decade, and I believe it is time for this great Mexican warrior from Tijuana to hang his gloves up and enjoy himself. His most recent fight was a devastating knockout loss to Manny Pacquiao in three rounds. Morales looked completely spent when taking the count after the third round, and simply had the look of a beaten man.

I've seen this look before: Gatti after the Baldomir fight. Arguello after the Pryor rematch. Morales has already solidified one great career, and no doubt will be inducted in the IBHOF for his spectacular wars with Barrera, Pacquiao, Hernandez, Chavez, and many others. Morales has nothing left to prove. I don't want to see him take another beating like the one he took on November 18.

JAMES BAULER
chicagosugar007@comcast.net

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

It's been more than three years since the first Manny Pacquiao-Marco Antonio Barrera fight, and Pac-Man's countryman, reader Ram Duljo, has heard enough of Barrera's "excuses"; he wants to see a rematch as soon as possible to settle the issue once and for all.

Tyson-Butterbean Anyone?

A Mike Tyson-Butterbean fight is long overdue. Both guys are no longer in their primes, and both have made names for themselves through a career of circus-like antics. Butterbean is exciting to watch because every time he fights you're amazed that he doesn't have a heart attack. Tyson is exciting because every time he fights there is a chance of seeing him bite or maim someone. But the truth is neither guy really poses a threat to any seriously ranked heavyweight.

A fight between them, however, would be a car wreck that you can't help but rubberneck. Both guys clearly need the money or they would have stopped fighting five years ago. Although the fight would have no real significance to boxing, it sure would be entertaining to watch.

PAULIE FUCCILLO
Labe11avita@aol.com

Comments On Comentators

I was surprised by the HBO commentators' reaction to Juan Manuel Marquez' knockout win over the unranked and unknown Jimrex Jaca. Emanuel Steward stated that the public would rather see

Marquez, not Marco Antonio Barrera, fight Manny Pacquiao again due to the nature of Barrera's recent win against Rocky Juarez. Admittedly, Barrera's repeat victory over Juarez was dull, but Jaca is nowhere near the same caliber as Juarez.

And how about Max Kellerman's assertion that Marquez has been the best featherweight in the world for the past 10 years. Does Kellerman remember that Barrera, Erik Morales, and Naseem Hamed dominated the division for the better part of the past 10 years? Kellerman also forgot to mention that Marquez lost unanimous decisions to both Freddie Norwood and Chris John in featherweight title fights. And even when Marquez fought the fight of his life against Pacquiao, he was only able to gain a draw.

Don't get me wrong. Juan Manuel Marquez is a wonderful, world-class fighter. But to suggest that a win over Jaca puts him ahead of Barrera and makes him the featherweight of the decade is just absurd.

ADAM FRISCIA
Carlisle, PA

While the 12-round shutout of Carlos Baldomir by Floyd Mayweather was a rather dull fight, the bias of Manny Steward is getting to the level of the man he replaced at HBO, George Foreman. Steward claiming that Mayweather's conservative fight plan down the stretch somehow kept him from being a "true great" like Sugar Ray Leonard or Thomas Hearns is ridiculous.

Winning fights makes you great, not scoring knockouts. Otherwise, Willie Pep would not be one of the greatest boxers to ever live. Somehow, I think Steward would act differently if he felt he had a remote chance of training Mayweather.

ERIC WONG
San Francisco, CA

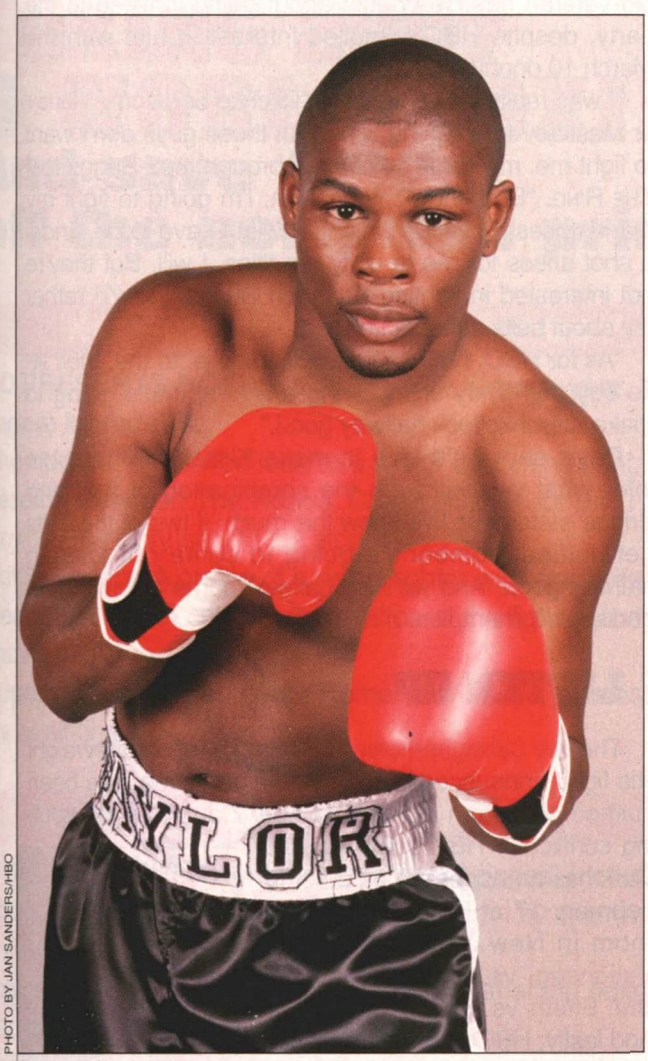


PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS/HBO

Based on his lackluster performance against the undersized Kassim Ouma, Jermain Taylor would be wise to stay away from super middleweight champion Joe Calzaghe, warns Jim Wayland. Another RING reader, Zane Rowland, doubts the middleweight champ's punching power and ability to jab.

Down On Jermain

Jermain Taylor would be wise to stay at 160 and avoid super middleweight contention until Joe Calzaghe gets about as old as Bernard Hopkins. Taylor is a fighter who relied on a youthful abundance of strength against Kassim Ouma, and workrate against Hopkins and Winky Wright. Not only does Calzaghe have the craftiness to beat him, but he also throws a plethora of combinations.

Jermain might not be as helpless as Jeff Lacy against Calzaghe, but he would probably suffer the same fate.

JIM WAYLAND
Jim_Wayland@hotmail.com

Jermain Taylor proved two things against Kassim Ouma. One: He isn't a puncher! Period. End of story. Bottom line, how many times have we seen Ouma dropped by lesser opponents than Taylor, while Taylor couldn't dent him. Maybe he should pull his right foot out of that bucket.

Two: His jab isn't what we thought it was. It was non-existent against a guy it should have been effective against. Once Ouma started adjusting to Taylor's overly wide and too often not down the middle right hand, it could have been a weapon and re-opened the door to the right hand.

When Jermain finally fights someone who can punch, like Arthur Abraham, Edison Miranda, or Kelly Pavlik, his ability to absorb big punches will properly be tested. Hopefully, it will be Miranda, because his wild, high-energy style is the perfect foil for Jermain.

ZANE ROWLAND
zane_rowland@hotmail.com

A New Fan

I'm one of the people who has begun following boxing more closely because of *The Contender II*, and I picked up the issue of THE RING with Grady Brewer and Sugar Ray Leonard on the cover (January 2007). I know there's some antipathy between boxing and "martial artists" (I guess boxing is technically a martial art), but I first got interested in boxing after my sensei talked about how much respect he had for boxers: Win a round, lose a round, they stay in the fight, and they have to think and adjust their fight as it goes on.

Anyway, it was an interesting issue of THE RING to read, and your magazine has much better writing than many of the martial arts magazines I've seen, so I'm glad I've discovered you.

BOB MCGOUGH
bobfight@mac.com

By Eric Raskin

Unification Is Mandatory (After The Mandatories)

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

The Briggs–Ibragimov winner could clarify heavyweight picture

I want heavyweight unification. You want heavyweight unification. The top heavyweights want heavyweight unification. And, perhaps most importantly, HBO wants heavyweight unification. And HBO has the cash to make things happen, so in 2007, the road to heavyweight unification will almost certainly begin.

There's an off chance it could begin on April 28 at Madison Square Garden, with IBF titlist **Wladimir Klitschko** taking on WBC titlist **Oleg Maskaev.** But one of the few people who doesn't seem to want heavyweight unification, **Jose Sulaiman**, is likely going to enforce Maskaev's mandatory defense against the **Sam Peter-James Toney** II winner first. And that's going to force Klitschko in another direction: toward WBO beltholder **Shannon Briggs**.

Assuming Klitschko-Maskaev doesn't pan out, the plan is for a March 10 HBO alphabet-mandatory doubleheader, featuring Klitschko vs. **Ray Austin** from Germany, and Briggs vs. **Sultan Ibragimov** from the United States. (The Klitschko fight will air live at 5 p.m. Eastern time and again on tape delay, in conjunction with the Briggs fight, at 10 p.m.)

"I don't know that we would buy Briggs-Ibragimov as a stand-alone fight," HBO Sports Executive Vice President **Kery Davis** admitted to THE RING in late-December. "However, by packaging it with the Klitschko-Austin fight, and with the idea being that we would have a commitment to the winners fighting down the line, we're at least trying to move the heavyweight story forward. That's really the intent here. To move the heavyweight story forward so that we can get to the point where we can do the unification fights with some of these mandatories out of the way."

In a perfect world, the March 10 winners would unify over the summer, and so would the other two beltholders, and we might be able to achieve total unification by the end of 2007. But that's probably unrealistic, given all the political and promotional roadblocks. So if we only get as far as unifying two belts before year's end, would Davis consider that a success?

"It's hard to say having just two belts unified qualifies as successful, but listen, that's a first step. It would be a good first step. But even more importantly, if the belts are unified in a way that the public begins to feel like there's some clarity coming in the division, then that would feel like a successful year. That matters even more than the belts being unified. The goal is really to get one guy that the public believes has established himself as The Man."

Klitschko has been beating the drums for unification since establishing himself as the world's top heavyweight this past year. "The heavyweight division needs a real champion. I don't consider myself the real champion now," he told us after beating **Calvin Brock** in November. Briggs feels the same way. But the 35-year-old veteran has his doubts about getting invited to the party, despite HBO's implied interest in him with the March 10 doubleheader.

"I was really set on fighting Klitschko or **Nicolay Valuev** or Maskaev to unify the titles. But those guys don't want to fight me, my name's not even brought up," Briggs told THE RING. "So I know my position; I'm going to fight my mandatories and continue to do what I have to do, and if a shot arises for me to unify the titles, I will. But they're not interested in fighting Shannon Briggs. They'd rather cry about belts not being unified.

"As for HBO, I don't know. Klitschko is, to me, their little boy toy. They enjoy doing anything that's going to make Klitschko look halfway good."

Davis says he'd love to make Klitschko-Briggs, so infer what you will from the combination of that and Briggs' statement. We know this much: If two of the belts get unified, someone's going to come out looking halfway good. And we'll be halfway home to having an undisputed champion.

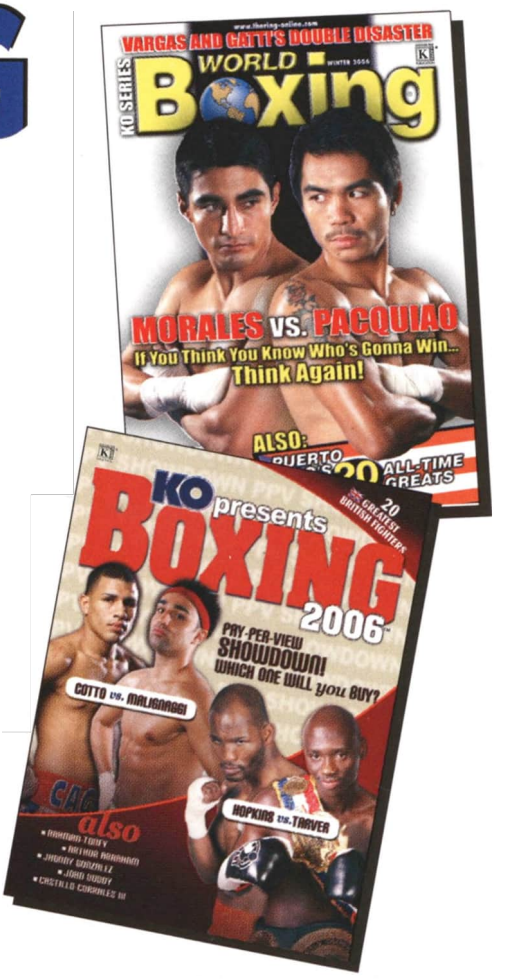
LISTEN UP

The **Joe Calzaghe-Peter Manfredo** super middleweight title fight, announced in this column last issue, has been pushed back from March 3 to April 7 due to a scheduling conflict ... HBO's *Boxing After Dark* has an appealing card set for February 17 at Hammerstein Ballroom in New York, with **Paulie Malignaggi** vs. **Edner Cherry** and **Ishe Smith** vs. **Sechew Powell** ... And lastly, HBO PPV has set aside the date of July 14 for the unretirement party of **Bernard Hopkins**. Whom he'll be unretiring against remains to be seen. ■

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Malignaggi returns in February after eight months from the ring

A DEVASTATING TWO-PUNCH COMBO!



SUBSCRIBE TO KO PRESENTS BOXING 2007 & WORLD BOXING

And save 42% off the newstand price!

KO PRESENTS BOXING 2007

KO PRESENTS BOXING 2007 (Three times a year, 140 pages) Includes ...

Showdown. A detailed look at a major upcoming fight.

Reading Between The Ropes. Contributing Editor Eric Raskin provides the story behind the story.

Hot Prospect. A profile of a rising fighter with star potential.

Media Review. A critical examination of the fight game's press coverage.

Superstars & Superfights. Remembering the greatest boxers of all-time.

WORLD BOXING

WORLD BOXING (Two times a year, 116 pages) Includes ...

Hitting On The Break. An outrageous column by controversial Jim Bagg.

Toe-To-Toe. The insightful views of our managing editor, Joe Santoliquito.

The Sweeter Science. Joe Santoliquito's in-depth look at the world of women's boxing.

The Predictor. Previews and odds on upcoming fights.

Report Card. Grading six different fighters in a new division each issue and forecasting their chances for future success.

SAVE NEARLY $18!

☐ World Boxing/Boxing 2007 (5 issues) for just $25.00 (LKOM/LWBX)

Send To: London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____
MO/YR

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. ____

City _____ State ____ Zip ____

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

For Canada and all other countries: $30.00 for five issues combined of KO Presents Boxing 2007 and World Boxing ($40.00 airmail). International money orders only in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first magazine. Offer expires January 31, 2008.

ACBM07

7565/11-06

EVERLA
Sofia
EVERLAST
EVERLAST